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Southeast Asia Report

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TRANSMIGRATION TO IRIAN JAYA ANALYZED

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 18 Apr 84 pp 14, 15

[Article by Peter Hastings: "Irian Jaya's Leaders Prepare to Welcome the Javanese Tidal Wave"]

[Text] Irian Jaya's burly governor, Isaak Hindom, is a quick-witted Irianese who resembles a younger version of Papua New Guinea's former Governor-General, Sir John Guise. He has the same air of the wily, successful Papuan orator. He laughs a lot, Niugini fashion, and tells you he is orang ("man bilong" in pidgin) Fak Fak, an Irian west coast settlement.

Like most of his successful contemporaries, who are also in their forties, he was Dutch mission-educated. In his case it was the Reformed Protestant Church of the Moluccas.

He sits in an enormous, air-conditioned office in the main administration block near Jayapura's waterfront and preaches the doctrine of TM, or "trans migrasi." This is a shorthand reference to the large-scale importation of landless, mainly Javanese, peasants into a basically Melanesian subsistence farming community.

He speaks about the future effects of large-scale TM with a ruthless optimism which I, for one, believe entirely misplaced.

TM is the key to the future, he says...the road to development. Because of Dutch colonialism the Irianese are too backward to do the job for themselves. The only answer is trans migrasi of whom there will be, he says, 700,000 in 1989, the end of the current five-year plan.

If this means that some or many Irianese will cross the border in a state of culture shock to solicit tears from "Oom" (uncle) Michael Somare, then too bad. They are only "pebbles on the beach," according to the governor. The more Javanese to arrive with superior skills the better. A year ago he told me much the same thing saying with one of the characteristic giggles that within 10 years all Irianese would have straight hair.

Other highly placed Irianese, in more restrained language, share his long-term view. They include six of the province's nine bupati (district commissioners), who are now Irianese and at least two of the three Irianese Deputy Governors soon to be appointed to Indonesia's largest, least populated province.

While they reflect the official Indonesian view, which is gung-ho on TM matters--they wouldn't have the job if they didn't--it is cynical to regard them simply as Indonesian Uncle Toms. Isaak Hindom has a sense of history. He passionately believes Irian Jaya has no future outside Indonesia, that the comparatively big Asian-style development now going into the province--its budget this year was \$US91 million--is needed to exploit its undoubted resources and to uplift its indigenous people.

A Christian, living in a Christian province, he also welcomes Muslims, of whom there are now 150,000--half of them Irianese converts--where in Dutch times it is doubtful there were 200.

Of the future impact of Islam on Irian Jaya's 790,000 Protestants and 300,000 Catholics he says with yet another one of his celebrated giggles that "if we all end up Muslims it is God's will." It is all rather uncompromising, sententious stuff which ignores, because it must, a host of problems arising as the Irianese steadily become a cultural minority in their own land.

That the Irianese should become a minority is a precise, if unstated, aim of Indonesian policy. It is inevitable if Javanisation of Irian Jaya is to be achieved within 40 to 50 years where in the rest of the archipelago the process has taken 1,000 or more. If Javanisation is the goal, TM is the means.

TM is not restricted to Irian Jaya. It has been a long established Indonesian policy to send landless Javanese to less settled parts of the republic. It was a policy in Dutch times. Irian Jaya in fact is only tenth choice for trans migrasi, but Sumatra is 20 times more popular as a resettlement area for Javanese.

TM motives are mixed. One's undoubtedly to relieve land population pressure on over-crowded Java by moving its landless peasants to places where they can own a plot of dirt of their own.

Indonesia will have about 230 million people in 16 years' time. Its population will peak around the year 2030 at 350 million when it will begin to drop. More than 150 million will live in Java, an island of huge, industrialised cities. Moving the landless from Java obviously helps individual peasants. But Java would have to move tens of millions to make any real difference to overcrowding and land pressure.

The spread of Javanese farming skills to places like Borneo, Irian Jaya and Timor is another motive.

But a much more important motive is the political intentions to spread Javanese culture and skills to places like South and East Kalimantan (Borneo), the Riau Islands near Singapore and Irian Jaya, all of which share a land or contiguous sea border with neighbouring countries. Uncertain frontiers make the Indonesians nervous.

This is the principal reason for the TM settlements shaping up along the Indonesian-PNG border, north and south of New Guinea's central mountain ranges. Indonesians in Jayapura make no secret of the political nature of the settlements to be built along the so-called Trans-Irian Jaya Highway that within the next five years will run 800 kilometres along the border from Jayapura to Merauke and link up with the road to the Central Highlands.

These border settlements, a highway and the proposed feeder roads are obviously designed to form a cordon sanitaire of linked Javanese villages providing a strategic environment in which OPM (Free Papua Movement) guerrillas, probably not more than 300, and sympathisers will find it difficult to operate.

The future roads, villages and Javanese emigrants are to form a cultural defence in depth. This will not make them liked but as a strategem will prove effective.

If there was an island referendum tomorrow it is probable 80 per cent of Irianese would vote against Indonesia. Paradoxically, at the same time, there is a considerable amount of good natured exchange between the two ethnic groups, a real degree of recognition and acceptance of Irian Jaya's future as part of Indonesia. But a threat to Irianese land is a threat to even this touchy accord.

Jakarta's planners, faithfully reflected by the governor, talk of bringing in 700,000 Javanese settlers by the end of 1989. This target is hopelessly optimistic. TM target figures mostly are. [as printed] The real figure is more likely to be half that number, even fewer.

Costs are also a restraint. Official estimates vary, but it is likely that the costs of moving an average family of five people by Hercules aircraft to prepared settlement sites in Irian Jaya--complete with housing, churches, mosques, schools roads, seeds, tools and one year's free rice--is between \$3,000 and \$4,000 a family, maybe \$800 or more a person.

On present predictions this means an expenditure of at least \$300 million over the next five years in a province whose total budget, covering everything from TM to education, this year amounts to \$US91 million. Even with central government funding and World Bank advances this seems optimistic.

But the main problem with TM in Irian Jaya is neither costs nor numbers but the impact of large numbers of Javanese on the Melanesian population. There are approximately 70,000 TM in various Irian Jaya settlements today, but in addition there may be as many as 160,000 spontaneous migrants, mainly Buginese, Makassarese and other entrepreneurial types trying to make a living in Irian Jaya's rapidly growing Asian-style towns.

While urban impact has its problems, the multi-racial mix between Irianese and non-Irianese improves, especially with inter-marriage between Christian groups. Moreover, there are increasing numbers of Irianese in government, police, Army and private employment as a result of development and increasing spread of urban education.

But the bush, where 80 per cent of ethnic Irianese live, is another story. Irianese reaction to the settlements has been very mixed. In other parts of Indonesia resettlement areas must include 10 per cent of locals. In Irian Jaya, by express presidential decree, the Irianese component must be 25 per cent in order to help a "backward" people.

But where is the 25 per cent to come from? In older settlement areas, a few going back before World War II, Javanese and Irianese worked well together. In newer settlements of the past 10 years, the Irianese are low men on a totem pole, Melanesian subsistence growers of yam, taro and sweet potato, who use their land for traditional hunting and slash and burn agriculture.

It is virtually impossible under these circumstances to get 25 per cent Irianese participation in a new settlement. The notion, in fact, of turning semi-nomadic Melanesian sweet potato farmers into Javanese padi farmers simply by waving a magic wand is absurd. It would take 20 years for a transfer of skills.

The most disturbing feature of the Indonesian large scale migration plans is the fact that they do not appear properly to understand the principle of compensation essential to Melanesian land deals. From Irian Jaya to Vanuatu Melanesian land is owned by small clans right down to individual trees. Even where land is seemingly unused there is always customary claim to it, even though strangers may use it temporarily provided they pay an agreed compensation. But it cannot be sold. It belongs in perpetuity to the clan.

Jayapura's TM experts tell me that Indonesian authorities do not necessarily pay compensation for land taken up for a TM settlement as the actual development which ensues (roads, schools, crops) is considered compensation in itself.

This, as anybody familiar with Melanesia will tell you, is a recipe for disaster. Nothing will more quickly frighten or anger Irianese villagers than being talked into giving land away without proper compensation. And the land area being sought is not negligible, 3,000 hectares for each 500 persons. Well over 700,000 hectares have already been taken up in settlements throughout Irian Jaya. This is a lot in a country intrinsically limited like PNG, by indifferent soils, swamps and steep slopes.

In border areas land alienation without due compensation could lead to eventually explosive results. Borderland is owned by villagers who are PNG or Indonesian citizens according to which side of the border they happened to be born.

There are probably 400 villages, involving perhaps on both sides 160,000 people, within walking distance of the border which they cross thousands of times yearly to visit relatives, tend subsistence gardens or hunt animals.

To date, only six traditional groups owning common land on both sides of the border are affected by present or proposed settlements. Five of them are south of the central ranges, two of them near where the Indonesian Highway strayed into PNG last year.

In 1989, if Indonesian shortfall figures are accurate, there may be about 147,000 Javanese, about half the total predicted for the whole province, settled in 29 areas involving Irianese villages, anywhere between 200 to 300 kilometres west of the border.

Two problems may arise. If Irianese near the border area feel a threat to their land culture the number of border crossings may increase radically to place new strains on an already strained PNG-Indonesian relationship.

An equally fateful problem will arise if Indonesian authorities fail to pay compensation for land taken for settlements which is owned not only by Irianese, but by Papua New Guinea citizens who will suddenly be vociferous in pressing their claims.

Curiously enough some of the toughest critics of the TM policy are to be found in the Indonesian administration in Jayapura. About 18 months ago Irian Jaya's Commanding General, R.K. Senbaring Meliala, wrote a very sensitive insightful paper for Jakarta warning that while the objectives of TM were admirable, their effects might prove counter productive. The program, he said, should be drastically revised because it made "Irianese feel like strangers in their own land..."

CSO: 4200/758

CONDITIONS OF ARAKANESE MUSLIMS EXAMINED

East Burnham ARABIA: THE ISLAMIC WORLD REVIEW in English No 32, Apr 84 p 39

[Article: "Burma: Why Arakan's Promise Remains Unfulfilled"]

[Text]

There is widespread hunger in the Muslim majority areas of Arakan, say Muslims who have crossed the Burmese border into Bangladesh since 1983, when Burma's new Citizenship Law was enforced. The law has deprived many Muslims of their Burmese citizenship.

The Muslims accuse the authorities in Arakan of pursuing a policy of discrimination to deprive Muslims of their livelihoods. They say that their crops are burnt or expropriated, and land confiscated, by the Magh Buddhist community, under the patronage of the Burmese army.

"There is panic prevailing in Muslim rural areas. People are afraid of the government. They are not tilling their land, they are starving," says Muhammad Yahya who, like many other Rohingyas, has recently entered Bangladesh illegally.

Arakan is bounded by the Bay of Bengal in the west and the Chin Hills in the north-east. It is one of the 16 states of Burma but it is separated from the rest by the Arakan Yoma mountains. The state has a population of 2.25 million, a million of them Muslims.

Per capita income of \$120 a year is the lowest in Burma but that of the Muslims is lower still. The main source of income is agriculture. Besides fishing, cottage industries, government services and petty businesses provide other sources of income.

The land is fertile and almost 10 per cent of it produces rice, though only one crop a year. Despite the fall in production in 1983, the region produced a vast rice surplus of some 200,000 tonnes. (Forty years earlier Arakan produced about 450,000 tonnes of surplus rice.) Production has fallen recently as many Muslim land owners have been driven out of the area, and the Magh Buddhists that have replaced them have little interest in agriculture.

Rice cultivation in Arakan is done with traditional techniques. It has been estimated that if modern machinery were used for cultivating the land the state could produce more than a million tonnes of surplus rice each year.

Besides rice, Arakan produces chili, tobacco, beans, sugar, sesamoun, onions, mustard, coconut, garlic, betel leaf and betel nuts. These are grown on a small scale and their cultivation receives no government aid.

Arakan's 300-mile coast is rich in fish. However, the lack of well equipped fishing trawlers means that the annual catch is not as good as that of neighbouring Bangladesh. Since exports from the country are controlled by government agencies the local fishermen work to meet domestic demand only.

Seventy per cent of Arakan's land area is forest. Teak grown in Arakan's hilly ranges accounts for 15 per cent of all Burmese exports. "Iron wood," known as Pyinkado, is also abundant in the region. Bamboo is also plentiful though the bamboo forests have remained wild and unexploited. According to some experts, Arakanese bamboo could produce the finest quality paper and packing materials for the world market. If a paper mill were to be established at a suitable place in Arakan production could exceed that of Bangladesh's famous Karmafully Paper Mill. Specialists have also suggested that the northern Arakan area is ideal for rubber and tea plantations.

There is oil off the Arakan coast but little production has been recorded because of the lack of modern equipment. In the Rahmbres Island of Kyaukpri, for example, oil is pumped out by manual labourers. Geologists have said that Rathedoung, Man Aung Island, the Rahmbres Islands and Heinzan region may contain large reserves of crude oil.

The Simedin water fall in Buthidaung, 30 miles from the Norf river, could power a hydro-electric plant. In the 1930s some British engineers sought to construct one such plant but the Japanese invasion forced them to abandon the programme.

Arakan's mineral resources are largely unexploited. Several surveys have revealed that iron, uranium, coal, granite, and ores could be present. The most cheaply available item is marble. Japanese businessmen have offered lucrative development plans in the region in exchange for permission to explore the marble reserves. The proposal, however, was never taken up seriously.

Arakan, with its abundant natural resources, has remained underdeveloped since Burmese independence in 1948. The Rangoon government is fully aware of the geopolitical importance of the area but, some commentators suggest, no significant development plan has so far been taken up because the region is inhabited by a large number of Muslims.

Since independence, the government has been trying to force the Muslim community into Bangladesh. In 1978 Rangoon succeeded in pushing thousands of Muslims into Bangladesh; they were later taken back after severe Muslim and international pressure.

Pressure must be mounted by Muslim countries to secure an end to discrimination against the Rohingya Muslims. India, Bangladesh, Malaysia and Indonesia have a special responsibility to support the Mujahideen in Arakan. Muslim countries and organisations must prepare the ground for a comprehensive and effective economic boycott of Burma.

CHANGES IN AUSTRALIAN DEFENSE ASSISTANCE SOUGHT

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 18 Apr 84 p 7

[Article by Michael Richardson]

[Text]

SINGAPORE, Tuesday: Indonesia has told Australia it wants changes made to Canberra's annual \$10 million military aid program so as to strengthen the self-reliance of its armed forces.

A similar request is known to have been made by senior Indonesian defence authorities to the US which provides by far the largest amount of security assistance.

The move has injected an element of uncertainty into Australia's defence cooperation arrangements with Indonesia.

One consequence is likely to be a cut in the military aid program for 1984-85.

In Canberra, the Defence Department was asked whether Indonesia wanted the program to be scaled down or modified and, if so, what changes would be made to it in 1984-85 and what would its value be.

A spokesman said: "During annual discussions to review the ongoing defence cooperation program with Indonesia late last year, Indonesia indicated it was seeking to change the emphasis in defence assistance provided by friendly countries by decreasing emphasis on areas in which Indonesia is now capable of achieving a significant level of self-reliance.

"Such changes will not necessarily result in any lasting decline in the overall level of Australian (aid) activities with Indonesia although some variations in the level of activities will occur as the program is adjusted towards new areas of activity."

He said the main areas earmarked for aid were the provision of another Attack class patrol boat and technical aid to Indonesia, help in upgrading maintenance facilities for 18 Australian-designed and -built Nomad aircraft given to the Indonesian Navy for coastal surveillance, a joint survey-mapping project in western Indonesia, assistance in converting four Sioux helicopters from piston to turbine and making available in Australia places for training and study for about 100 Indonesian military personnel.

Indonesia is the second largest recipient of Australian military aid after Papua New Guinea which got \$17.3 million in 1982-83. From July 1972 to the end of next June, Indonesia will have received a total of \$140.6 million under the program, all of it non-repayable.

Canberra says defence cooperation with friendly countries in South East Asia and the South Pacific is designed to strengthen their capacity to resist external aggression, support their efforts to develop independent defence capabilities and promote a secure strategic environment.

The US Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and Pacific Affairs, Mr Wolfowitz, told Congress last month that the Reagan Administration proposed to reduce foreign military sales credits to Indonesia by \$5 million to \$40 million in fiscal year 1985 starting next October.

He suggested this was due to a shortage of foreign exchange and economic problems that had caused a slowdown in the modernisation of 281,000-strong armed forces.

Australian officials say they are not sure how the doctrines of maximum self-reliance and self-help being promoted by the Indonesian armed forces chief, General Benny Murdani would affect the content of the defence cooperation program with Australia.

One said he thought Jakarta might have suggested that fewer of its servicemen should be sent abroad for training and that the money saved be spent on buying equipment that could not be manufactured in Indonesia's increasingly advanced defence industry.

An Australian official however said that General Murdani and like-minded Indonesian military leaders wanted the armed forces to be more self-contained, make greater use of national resources and solve their own problems.

1984 EXPORTS EXPECTED TO INCREASE IN VALUE

Jakarta BUSINESS NEWS in English 11 May 84 p 8

[Text] Indonesia's exports of oil and oil products in 1984 are expected to show no change in volume, but to increase by around 15 to 30 percent in value compared with those in 1983, according to BPS (Central Bureau of Statistics).

Indonesia's exports of natural gas, the second export commodity for Indonesia after oil, are projected to be up by 5 to 10 percent in volume and 22 to 40 percent in value in 1984 as against those in the previous year.

The export volume of non-oil/non-gas commodities from Indonesia this year is expected to show a change of between -10 percent and +10 percent this year, whereas the export value of similar commodities is expected to rise by about 10 to 13 percent.

Thus Indonesia's overall exports in 1984 are expected to be up by 2.5 to 6 percent in volume and by 15 to 25 percent in value compared with those in 1983.

In the group of non-oil/non-gas commodities, the exports of industrial products and minerals are projected to go up in volume and value. The exports of agricultural products are projected to drop slightly in volume and to go up in value.

The value of Indonesia's exports of oil, natural gas and non-oil/non-gas commodities from 1976 to 1983 is as listed below: (in US\$ million).

YEAR	C r u d e o i l		N a t u r a l g a s		N o n-o i l / n o n-g a s		T o t a l	
	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%
1976	6,004.1	70.25	-	-	2,542.4	29.75	8,546.5	100
1977	7,297.8	67.25	80.3	0.74	3,474.3	32.01	10,852.4	100
1978	7,438.5	63.89	546.9	4.70	3,657.8	31.41	11,643.2	100
1979	8,870.5	56.90	1,292.9	8.29	5,426.3	34.81	15,590.1	100
1980	15,595.3	65.11	2,186.3	9.13	6,168.8	25.76	23,950.4	100
1981	18,164.1	72.18	2,499.1	9.93	4,501.3	17.89	25,164.5	100
1982	15,493.3	69.39	2,905.8	13.01	3,929.2	17.60	22,328.3	100
1983	13,557.9	64.12	2,582.8	12.21	5,005.2	23.67	21,145.9	100

The volume of Indonesia's exports of oil, natural gas and non-oil/non-gas commodities from 1976 to 1983 is as follows: (in thousand tons).

Year	C r u d e o i l		N a t u r a l g a s		N o n-o i l / n o n-g a s		T o t a l	
	Volume	%	Volume	%	Volume	%	Volume	%
1976	63,401.9	75.73	-	-	20,320.4	24.27	83,722.3	100
1977	73,290.5	76.90	355.5	0.36	21,653.1	22.72	95,302.4	100
1978	74,116.7	73.19	5,012.0	4.95	22,138.5	21.86	101,267.2	100
1979	66,012.3	67.13	8,975.7	9.12	23,279.0	23.69	98,268.0	100
1980	67,652.5	66.71	9,739.5	9.60	24,022.9	23.69	101,414.9	100
1981	69,357.1	71.24	9,123.8	9.37	18,874.2	19.39	97,353.1	100
1982	58,871.1	59.79	10,240.6	10.40	25,344.5	29.81	98,456.4	100
1983	59,755.6	57.10	10,272.3	9.81	34,625.8	33.09	104,653.9	100

Source: BPS (Central Bureau of Statistics)

1983-1984 STATE BUDGET SURPLUS ESTIMATED AT RP.4 BILLION

Jakarta BUSINESS NEWS in English 9 May 84 pp 5, 6

[Text] Indonesia's income and expenditure in the 1983/84 state budget, projected to be equal at Rp 16,565.4 billion, estimatedly reached Rp 18,315 billion and Rp. 18,311 billion respectively, a surplus of around Rp 4.0 billion, Minister of Finance Dr Radius Prawiro said at a parliamentary plenary session here recently.

He explained that several additions and revisions in the 1983/84 budget had to be made because of economic development in the country and in the world.

The state income in fiscal 1983/84 stood at around Rp 14,432.7 billion, some Rp 609.1 billion higher than the target of Rp 13,823.6 billion. The routine expenditure in 1983/84 estimatedly reached Rp 8,411.8 billion, some Rp 1,136.7 billion above the projection in the state budget.

The amount of public savings estimatedly reached Rp 6,020.9 billion in fiscal 1983/84, below the projection of Rp. 6,548.5 billion in the state budget. The total of public savings was lower than expected because of mainly the increase in the routine expenditure and the installment of debts as well as the interest.

The development expenditure in 1983/84 stood at around Rp 9,899.2 billion, some Rp 608.9 billion higher than the amount projected in the 1983/84 state budget. The total of foreign assistance Indonesia received in 1983/84 was worth around Rp 3,882.4 billion, about Rp 1,140.6 billion above the projected amount in the state budget. Foreign assistance received in 1983/84 comprised program aid amounting to Rp 14.9 billion and project assistance worth Rp 3,867.5 billion.

Indonesia's domestic revenue in 1983/84 totalled around Rp 14,432.7 billion, of which Rp 11,605.1 billion was from direct tax, Rp 2,308.6 billion from indirect tax and Rp 519 billion from non-tax sources. The collection of income tax reached about Rp 398.9 billion, Rp. 117.3 billion higher than the target set in the 1983/84 state budget, indicating an increase of Rp. 110.1 billion or 38.1 percent over that recorded in fiscal 1982/83

The collection of corporate tax and oil corporate tax respectively reached around Rp 757.4 billion and Rp 9,520.2 billion, indicating an increase of Rp 82.9 billion for corporate tax compared with the total recorded in fiscal

1982/83. The amount obtained in 1983/84 was lower than the target for corporate tax and higher than the projection for oil corporate tax. The collection of oil corporate tax in 1982/83 was Rp 1,349.8 billion below that reached in 1983/84.

The collection of MPO tax in 1983/84 estimatedly reached Rp 628.1 billion, below the target set in the state budget. The low figure results from the abolition of various kinds of MPO tax since January 1, 1984 and the change in the rate of MPO tax.

The collection of funds through Ipeda (village development contribution) scheme in 1983/84 reached around Rp 132.4 billion, slightly higher than the target. Funds collected from other kinds of direct tax estimatedly reached Rp 168.1 billion, some Rp 32.6 billion higher than the target of Rp 135.5 billion, or up by Rp 39 billion compared with the amount reached in fiscal 1982/83.

State revenue from sales tax in 1983/84 was recorded at around Rp 575.2 billion, some Rp 88.1 billion higher than the target, whereas funds collected from import duty and import sales tax in the same fiscal year stood at Rp 557 billion and Rp 255.5 billion, some Rp 121 billion and Rp 43.4 billion respectively below the target.

Funds collected from customs duty in 1983/84 reached about Rp 773.2 billion, some Rp 85.3 billion above the amount projected in the state budget. Duty on tobacco gave the biggest contribution in the collection of customs duty in the last fiscal year.

State revenue from export tax in 1983/84 amounted to around Rp 104 billion, some Rp 15.9 billion higher than the projection in the state budget. The higher figure is due to the increase in non-oil/non-gas exports.

Funds collected from other kinds of indirect tax totalled around Rp 43.7 billion, around 9.7 percent higher than the target.

State revenue from non-tax sources in 1983/84 estimatedly stood at Rp 519 billion, some Rp 17 billion higher than the target in the state budget.

State Expenditure

The state routine expenditure in 1983/84 estimatedly amounted to Rp 8,411.8 billion, some Rp 1,136.7 billion higher than the projection in the 1983/84 state budget. The higher figure is due to the repayment of debts as well as the interest and the higher funds needed for the salary of civil servants.

The installment of debts as well as the interest in 1983/84 reached around Rp 2,102.6 billion, about Rp 685.8 billion higher than the budget. The total comprised Rp 29.8 billion for the repayment of debts to domestic fund sources and Rp 2,072.8 billion for the repayment of foreign debts.

Subsidies for autonomous provincial administrations in 1983/84 totalled around Rp 1,547 billion, comprising Rp 41.5 billion for Irian Jaya and Rp. 1,505.5 billion for other provinces.

The realisation of development expenditure in 1983/84 reached around Rp 9,899.2 billion, about Rp 608.9 billion higher than the target. The figure consisted of Rp 6,031.7 billion in the rupiah financing and Rp 3,867 billion in the form of project assistance. The realisation of the rupiah financing was Rp. 521.9 billion below the target, whereas the realisation of project assistance was Rp 1,130.8 billion higher than the projected amount.

CSO: 4200/764

TALKS ON COCOS, CHRISTMAS ISLAND BASES DESIRED

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 25 Apr 84 p 1

[Article by Michael Richardson]

[Text] Singapore, Tuesday—Indonesia believes Australia will develop military facilities on the Cocos and Christmas Islands in the Indian Ocean and says it wants to be consulted.

Both island groups are much closer to Indonesia than to Australia and their inhabitants are mostly of Asian descent.

Christmas Island--some 2,600 kilometres northwest of Perth--is only 360 kilometres south of the main Indonesian island of Java and the Sunda Straits that separate Java from resource-rich Sumatra Island.

An official commentary broadcast recently in English on Indonesia's State Radio (RRI) said the Christmas and Cocos Islands could become "a formidable fortress at the entrance of the Sunda Strait and the South Java Sea."

A transcript was given THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD.

The commentary was broadcast on April 10, four days after the Cocos Islanders voted overwhelmingly for integration with Australia and some 10 days after THE NATIONAL TIMES published excerpts from a secret official document--The Strategic Basis of Australian Defence Policy--which said the Cocos and Christmas Islands could be targets of attack if Indonesia turned hostile in the future.

Referring to possible threats to Australia, the document, as published in THE NATIONAL TIMES, said: "Both islands are much closer to the [Indonesian] archipelago than to Australia and, while they continued undefended, it could seem feasible to an Indonesian Government, even with such limited military capabilities as at present, suddenly to seize either or both islands should it see value in such a dramatic and challenging gesture.

"Once taken, and were the Indonesians able to achieve a logistic build-up, the islands could be difficult to retake and to attempt to do so could place important high-capability Australian military assets at risk in a situation that would favour Indonesia.

Dr Desmond Ball, a senior research fellow in the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre at the ANU in Canberra, said in his book "A Suitable Piece of Real Estate," on US military facilities in Australia, that the Australian Government operated a sophisticated submarine monitoring system from Christmas Island.

The Defence Department has denied this.

The RRI commentary noted that the Cocos Islands--made up of 27 small coral atolls about 2,750 kilometres northwest of Perth and some 800 kilometres southwest of Christmas Island--are nearer to Sumatra and Java than Australia and that the majority of the population is of Malay or Indonesian stock.

"They have a strategic importance in the Indian Ocean, with an airstrip used by the Australian Air Force...the airstrip can also be used by aircraft of the US Air Force patrolling the Indian Ocean.

"Eventually, a naval base can also be constructed there.

"In the event of a conflict between the superpowers over control of the Indian Ocean, the [Cocos] Islands are bound to play a decisive role."

The RRI commentary said Indonesia had declared time and time again that it had "no ill will against Australia and no territorial ambitions."

"But one thing Australia has to remember is that as a member of ASEAN and the non-aligned movement, Indonesia is working for the realisation of a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality in Southeast Asia and for a nuclear-free zone in the Indian Ocean.

"Both Indonesia and Australia should have full confidence in each other and brief one another on important issues which may affect their respective national interests, security or otherwise, in the course of developing and fortifying the two groups of islands."

In Canberra, a spokesman for the Defence Department said yesterday that the department had no comment to make on the matter. The Defence Minister, Mr Scholes, was unavailable for comment as he is in Malaysia.

But Defence Department sources were last night playing down the Indonesian claim, pointing out that the Minister for Territories and Local Government, Mr Uren, had said following the United Nations Plebiscite for Cocos Island that the island would not be used for military purposes.

CSO: 4200/765

JANUARY-APRIL INFLATION 6.61 PERCENT

Jakarta BUSINESS NEWS in English 11 May 84 p 9

[Text] Price hike in many towns in Indonesia in April 1984 has caused the increase of the inflation rate to 1.31 percent in the same month, but still below the inflation rate in the same month last year, which stood at 2.43 percent, according to data obtained from BPS (Central Bureau of Statistics).

The April inflation rate has raised the cumulative inflation rate of the first four months of this year to 6.61 percent, slightly higher than that in the same period last year, which was recorded at 6.56 percent.

The inflation rate combinedly calculated in 17 cities in Indonesia in the first four months of the 1983 and 1984 calendar year and in the whole 1982/83 and 1983/1984 fiscal year is as follows:

Group	Calendar year (*)		Fiscal year (**)	
	1983	1984	82/83	83/84
General	6.56	6.61	8.40	12.63
I. Food	1.17	3.96	3.48	15.26
II. Housing	10.86	11.17	13.64	14.50
III. Clothing	1.37	0.78	2.14	5.02
IV. Others	14.00	8.28	14.07	8.81

CSO: 4200/765

BRIEFS

OIL TO THAILAND--The Indonesian state-owned oil company Pertamina has signed a contract for the supply of 5,000 barrels of oil a day to Thailand in the period of April 1, 1984 to March 31, 1985. Based on the contract, Pertamina will supply crude oil of the Handil quality to the Petroleum Authority of Thailand (PTT) at a price level effective when the crude is loaded at the Senipah terminal, East Kalimantan, which is at present US\$.29.50 per barrel FOB. The contract was signed here on May 7, 1984, by President Director of Pertamina Drs. Joedo Sumbono and Governor of the Petroleum Authority of Thailand Dr. Tongchat Hongladaromp. The contract was made as part of the realisation of ASEAN cooperation through ASCOPE (ASEAN Council on Petroleum). [Text] [Jakarta BUSINESS NEWS in English 11 May 84 p 3]

ITALIAN WATER DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE--The Italian Government has given technical assistance worth Rp. 1,850,500,000 for the development of water resources, particularly in connection with the use of ground water. Minister of Public Works Ir. Suyono Sosrodarsono and Italian Ambassador to Indonesia Georgio Verchi signed the document of the agreement for the technical assistance here Wednesday. Some Rp 1,222,650,000 of the technical assistance is for consultant services and Rp 642,850,000 for the procurement of equipment and the training of personnel. The technical assistance is for two years, from the 1984/85 fiscal year. For the project, the Indonesian Government has provided funds amounting to Rp 461,000,000 through the Directorate General for Water Resources Development. Through the project, ground water in Lombok will be used to irrigate farm land, to fulfil the need for clean drinking water on the island and for other purposes. The development project for the use of ground water in Lombok covers four areas, comprising Sengkol in Central Lombok with three wells, Pringgoboyo-Kerleko with four wells, Kayangan-Bayan in the northern coastal area of Lombok with three wells and Sakotong in West Lombok with three wells. The depth of the wells is 250 to 350 metres. The main purpose of the project is to prevent the island from water shortage. [Text] [Jakarta BUSINESS NEWS in English 11 May 84 p 5]

HUDBAY OIL STARTING PRODUCTION--Hudbay Oil Malacca Strait Ltd, which will start its first oil production in the next two months, is at present preparing its personnel consisting of Indonesian sons who will work in an off-shore operational area in Selat Lalang, the Malacca Strait. The training and educational program for the personnel of Hudbay ended at the end of March this year. Forty-five trainees from the operational areas of Hudbay have attended the training course and an inaugural ceremony for the trainees was held in the Lemigas educational and training centre in Cepu, Central Java, recently. Hudbay, a subsidiary of Hudson's Bay Oil & Gas Company, is acting as an operator of a group of companies involved in contracts with Pertamina. The company is operating in an operational area in the Malacca Strait based on a contract signed on August 5, 1970. On August 1980, Hudbay struck the first oil reserve in that area with a capacity of 7,092 barrels a day. An oil well with a capacity of 10,353 barrels a day was drilled in 1981. The second oil reserve, with a capacity of 12,017 barrels a day, was discovered in the same year. [Text] [Jakarta BUSINESS NEWS in English 11 May 84 p 7]

FARMLAND FOR FARM FAMILIES--The ownership of farmland by each farmer family in Indonesia was up from 0.99 ha in 1973 to 1.08 ha in 1983 as a result of the creation of new farmland in resettlement centres by transmigrants and the extension of farmland by local farmers outside Java, according to data collected by BPS (Central Bureau of Statistics) through the 1983 agricultural census. The increase in the ownership of farmland occurred outside Java, from 1.52 ha in 1973 to 1.69 ha in 1983 for each farmer family. In Java, it decreased from 0.64 ha in 1973 to 0.63 ha in 1983 for each farmer family. The number of farmer families outside Java rose by around 31.4 percent from 5.71 million in 1973 to 7.5 million last year, whereas farmland owned by farmers outside Java expanded by 46.1 percent from 8.66 million ha in 1973 to 12.66 million ha in 1983. The number of farmer families in Java grew up by about 16.89 percent from 8.66 million in 1973 to 10.13 million in 1983, whereas farmland possessed farmers in Java expanded by around 15.5 percent from 5.51 million ha in 1973 to 6.36 million ha last year. [Text] [Jakarta BUSINESS NEWS in English 11 May 84 p 7]

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OF DOWNSTREAM INDUSTRIES--The growth in the industrial sector in Indonesia was 12.98 percent a year in Pelita I (1969/70-1973/74), 13.70 percent a year in Pelita II (1974/75 to 1976/79) and 11.10 percent in Pelita III (1979/80-1983/84), the available data show. With the continued development in the industrial sector, various kinds of local products have been able to fulfil the need for industrial products in the country. The value of products from major and medium industries increased by an average of 35.6 percent a year in the first three years of Pelita III. The utilisation of the available natural resources in the procurement of industrial basic materials in the country was intensified in Pelita III. The development of the industrial sector had up to the present time been concentrated on downstream industries, that are generally aimed at reducing imports. Therefore, there are still a lot of industries much dependent on the import of basic materials and components. Most industrial plants are at present located in Java, except several key industrial plants processing natural resources outside Java. The government is at present stepping up the development of key industries. In Pelita IV, more infrastructures will be built in industrial zones in Indonesia, such as the Cikampek, Cibinong, Gresik, Cilacap, Cilegon, Lhok Seumawe and Indarung industrial zones. [Text] [Jakarta BUSINESS NEWS in English 11 May 84 p 7]

SOUTH SUMATRA PALMOIL PLANT--The first palmoil plant built in South Sumatra will start operation soon. Built by PTP-X state-run plantation company, the plant is located in Tebanan, Musi Banyuasin regency. For the supply of raw materials, a 7,388 ha of oil palm plantations has been set up in Tebanan. The plantation is cultivated under the PIR (nucleus estate for smallholders) pattern. The new plant is expected to fulfil the need for cooking oil in South Sumatra, which is estimated at an average of 26 million liters/year. In the first stage, the plan will operate with a processing capacity of 30 tons of wet palm kernel per hour and the capacity will be increased to 60 tons per hour in the final stage. Some 2,000 ha of oil palm plantations in Muara Enim, South Sumatra, which is cultivated under the PIR scheme, will be expanded to 60,000 ha. The second palm oil plant in South Sumatra is scheduled to be set up in Muara Enim. [Text] [Jakarta BUSINESS NEWS in English 11 May 84 p 10]

CSO: 4200/765

FOREIGN ADVISORS, SRV TROOP PRESENCE IN VIENTIANE NOTED

Bangkok MATUPHUM in Thai 10 Feb 84 p 7

[Article by Wutipong Lakkham: "Meetings With People In Vientiane: That Is Moscow and the Jungle Is Hanoi"]

[Excerpt] In the early morning, bus after bus went by taking passengers to various places. And in the evening, they took them back again. But some people had Voiga, Lada or even Toyota sedans for their private use. These people live in the hotels, barracks and apartments that the Vientiane government has provided for them.

The two large five-story buildings on the outskirts of the city on Route 13 are always filled with people in the evening.

There are so many Russians here with me that I figure there must be 1,000 to 2,000 of them. There are so many that I can see the reason why there is a television station in Vientiane that broadcasts programs directly from Moscow.

One day, I asked Mr Boun Phon from the Information Department about this. He told me that besides the people from the Soviet Union, there are many from Bulgaria, Rumania, East Germany, Cuba and Japan. But concerning this, there is nothing that the new administration of Laos wants to keep secret.

Mr Boun Phon told me that these people are experts in various fields. There are technicians, engineers and teachers. They work in schools, hospitals and industrial factories, in the fields, on the roads that are under construction and in many other places where construction is underway.

Mr Boun Phon also told me that these people from these distant friendly countries are just the same as the Vietnamese stationed in the northern jungles. That is, what they are taking away from the Lao people is "air to breathe." Except for that, they give the Lao people everything they want.

Before returning home, Mr Souban Salitthilat, the deputy minister of foreign affairs, told me that they have made great contributions to the Lao people.

I was very fortunate to be able to travel to Vientiane Capital a few days before New Year. One day, I approached a sweet-looking lady who was selling noodle soup at a market in a straightforward manner by calling out "who is a Vietnamese soldier?" I asked some questions and was told that normally the Vietnamese (soldiers) do not come into the city. Only rarely do they come to buy goods. But on such an important holiday, I was certain to meet some.

One morning at 0600 hours when it was still dark in Vientiane, a truckload of Vietnamese from the jungle came into the city. The truck parked on Lan Sang Road, and the men got out and walked toward the market. It was there that I took a picture of them. These Vietnamese were really frightened by the camera.

In appearance, they were no different from young men in our country. Some of them were dressed in green uniforms. They wore a helmet and rubber boots in the style of guerrilla fighters. Some were not wearing a full uniform. That is, they were wearing only the top part of the uniform. Some were wearing "keng" shirts, green pants and slippers. I realized that it was probably a pleasure for these men to wear soft-soled slippers instead of their boots.

This was probably the first time that some of these men had been to the market since they looked so shy. They stood together in a dark corner where there were no passers-by. They looked hesitant and moved about uncertainly as if not knowing what to do or where to go.

But what pleased me the most was that none of these men was carrying a weapon. I looked at them carefully and can assure you that I was not mistaken.

Late one morning, three or four Vietnamese hurried to one of the morning markets carrying backpacks. In the packs were bags of shrimp crackers. Yes, these were shrimp crackers from Vietnam. They wanted only 40 kip per bag for them. But the pretty Chinese-looking merchant bargained vigorously to have the price lowered to 20 kip. In Vientiane, it is said that the shrimp crackers from Vietnam are very delicious because they are made from real shrimp from the Gulf of Tonkin and there is nothing artificial mixed in as in Thailand.

"This is left-over food" said a Vietnamese soldier to me through a Vietnamese merchant who offered to act as a translator.

"We want to obtain some money to purchase salt and sugar, and slippers if we have enough money," they said raising their heads and looking at me as if wanting to know what I was up to.

I pitied them. Their slippers were of such poor quality that a Thai would not have worn them. The price of slippers at the Vientiane market was almost 200 kip a pair. And so you can see how many bags of shrimp crackers they had to sell to buy slippers for everyone.

The Lao People's Democratic Republic is a country that has full independence and sovereignty over its own land. It's the same as with other states that have the right to choose their friends and associate with whom they want. At a minimum, the ASEAN countries have admitted that the fact that 20,000 to 30,000 Vietnamese troops are stationed in Laos is an entirely different matter from the 100,000 "Vietnamese volunteers" in Kampuchea. Because in the case of Laos, it was the government that asked them to come.

I think that the Lao deputy minister of foreign affairs clarified this matter very well in his special interview with MATUPHUM that MATUPHUM printed a few days ago. I don't want to repeat everything that was said and don't want to add anything else.

The title of today's article may seem somewhat strange. It may not seem entirely fair to the Lao people to call this "Moscow" just because the automobiles on the streets were "made in Leningrad," fighter aircraft above the capital are Mig 21s and groups of experts are here to provide help. People in Vientiane could ask whether Bangkok has become Tokyo or Washington.

Today, I am showing various pictures taken in Vientiane so that I don't have to say so much. Because concerning what I have said, I don't know whether this will lead to an argument with someone or not.

11943

CSO: 4207/130

VIENTIANE ATTITUDES, AVAILABILITY OF GOODS NOTED

Bangkok MATUPHUM in Thai 15 Feb 84 p 7

[Article by Wutipong Lakkham: "Meetings With People In Vientiane: Old and New Images"]

[Excerpt] Before leaving that day, my driver told me that he had lived in Vientiane for almost 20 years. He said that he had never thought of fleeing anywhere and that he never would.

However, I also had a chance to talk with several people who are still trying to find a way to flee. The most common reason given for this was that they wanted to go engage in trading activities in Thailand. Because if they remain in Laos, they will not have a chance to become wealthy. Some of the lovely merchants still dream of the "heaven" at the Nong Khai refugee center without knowing that that "heaven" was abolished many years ago.

Others told me that they were eager to go to Bangkok because they want to see real civilization after having gotten a view of things there from color-television Channel 7. They told me that they would be happy to be able to sell goods at Anusawarichai.

Our Channel 7 has been a great success in Vientiane. No matter how trite the movie shown, the people in the shops watch it avidly. The new system in Laos has not thought about prohibiting this. And Lao officials told me that there are no policies that would prohibit this. But they said that efforts will be made to improve Lao television programs, although they have no idea when this will be done.

But I would like to tell all these people who dream of finding heaven in Bangkok that the heaven in Bangkok has no room for poor people.

But one thing that I am happy about is that none of those who expressed a desire to go to Bangkok said that they wanted to cross the Mekong River [into Thailand] because of being oppressed by state officials or being forced to join groups or participate in camp meetings and seminars as people in Thailand claim. These people just want to have an easier

and more comfortable life. They want more money to spend. They want a greater choice of foods and want to travel and see places that seem more prosperous.

But there was one woman who worked as a teacher at a primary school. In the evenings, she set up a stand and sold cigarettes and candy at the Route 13 junction in order to increase her income. I stopped there two nights in a row [and she was there] even though it was rather cold there at night.

"Just after liberation, everyone thought about fleeing," she told me with a smile as we talked about this.

"But after awhile, people saw that they could get by. People here are all 'brothers,' and everyone owns some property. We all have to work regardless of where we live," she said calmly.

This teacher also told me that even though her monthly salary is only 200 kip, there is a rice guarantee. The state allots each person 20 kilograms a month. And families with children are given more proportionally. What this means is that in the new system, no one will starve. At the very least, every family has a garden to help support themselves. People can find food by themselves and so they don't have to rely on the markets too much.

"Here, education for children is free at all schools and at all levels in accord with their abilities. We don't have to worry about this. When people become ill, they receive treatment free of charge. However, there are times when medicines are unavailable since we can't produce enough," she said talking in the style of her profession.

This matter of medicine is really a major issue. Several ordinary people told me that the visit to the doctor was free but all they got was a prescription. In times of crisis, they had to do everything possible to obtain medicine from the Thai side.

Yes, medicine is a war material on the Thai side. The sale of almost every important type of medicine is prohibited. And the effect of this is felt by the ordinary people, as I saw on this trip.

And as far as I know, the new government of Laos is trying very hard to become self-reliant. In Laos, private pharmaceutical companies that were in existence during the time of the old regime are still in operation, and government officials are stepping up the production of certain types of medicines from herbs. Besides this, the Lao minister of foreign affairs told me that the Japanese government has set up a grant fund for establishing a drug production plant in Laos. This project will be completed in 1984.

In Vientiane today, there is both showiness and simplicity and both merriness and sadness. And where there is darkness, there is also light and hope. It is probably not incorrect to say that in the midst of progress, there is also backwardness. This is true, as my driver, a theorist, said.

THAI PAPER DISCUSSES COFFEE PRODUCTION, EDUCATION POLICIES

Bangkok MATUPHUM in Thai 16 Feb 84 p 7

[Article by Wutiphong Lakkham: "Meetings With People In Vientiane: Good-Bye Vientiane"]

[Excerpts] A Letter to Readers

I'm sorry about having to leave Vientiane so hurriedly today. I probably won't have a chance to write more than this, unlike what I had originally planned, since I will leave tomorrow.

But if I may take a last look back at Vientiane, I would like to provide a general description of the situation there by saying that at present, the Lao people are struggling for the basic necessities in their daily lives. At the same time, this is part of building the economy and society of the country in accord with the ideology and tenets of the new system.

This is a very heavy task. And it is only natural if a few people flee across the Mekong because of their inability to withstand the hardships or because they feel that this is the better choice.

However, I don't think that all Lao people feel this way. I met, and know, many Lao intellectuals who are trying to build something new. These people are graduates in law, political science, medicine, engineering and various technical subjects from Europe. They can each speak two to three foreign languages. I think that they have the qualifications to find good jobs abroad. But what is strange is that these people are satisfied with their monthly salaries of 200-300 kip. And they told me proudly that the monthly salaries of their leaders are not much higher than theirs. I began to understand and to have hope along with this new generation of people.

The Lao deputy minister of foreign affairs told me that since the change of administration in 1976, the government has sent 800 to 1,000 students a year to study in friendly countries.

From official figures, I learned that at present, 10,000 students are studying in France, West Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. Of these, 4,000 are studying at the university and vocational college level.

Graduates have begun to return home this year and more will return in 1985. These students are another hope of the people and the new government.

As for education within the country, official figures show that in 1945, 95 percent of the population was illiterate. But in 1975, illiteracy nationwide had fallen to 65 percent. And by 1981 the government had succeeded in making 85 percent of the population literate. At present, there are approximately 1 million teachers and students nationwide.

At present, Laos is implementing a 5-year development plan. One of the targets is that by the end of the plan in 1985, Laos will have completely eliminated illiteracy while the population of Laos will have increased from 3.9 million to 4 million.

When I visited Vientiane, the people were planting the "saeng," or second rice crop. Thus, along both sides of the road from Tha Dua to Vientiane, the land was green with rice plants. Besides this, the day that I drove along the highway to Luang Prabang--the day that I went to see the Nam Ngum Dam--I saw several canals that had been built in the rice fields.

A state official pointed out that the state is stepping up the formation of cooperatives and production settlements throughout the country. It is mobilizing the people and trying to get them to see the benefits to be gained from engaging in cooperative production. It is urging more private individuals to join state production settlements and cooperatives.

In Laos at present, private individuals still have the right to own farm land. The state has not confiscated their land or compelled them to give up this land. They say that Laos has much land. The population density is only 17 people per square kilometer and so there is no need to confiscate this land.

Laos has another product that is very interesting and that is coffee. As a coffee drinker, I found the coffee from Paksong in Champasak Province in Laos to be very delicious. I found Paksong coffee to be one of Vientiane's attractions.

Lao officials said that they can produce 4,000 tons of coffee a year and that this will increase to 40,000 tons in 1985, which is a 10-fold increase.

If I may express a view, I would like to say that concerning having a wealth of resources and producing people to serve society, I, together with the Lao people, am full of hope on the long path from independence, peace and unity to socialism.

And I like to view things in a positive way. I, like the Lao people, hope that the leaders in Vientiane will be able to help an independent and free Laos reach the goals using its own methods. This is a hope that one person in a neighboring country has for this country.

During my 6 days in Vientiane, I had a chance to meet and get to know many people from various occupational groups.

Unfortunately, I have not had a chance to write about the sad American and ASEAN diplomats here. And I have not had a chance to write about my conversations with people in the coffee shops or about the economist at the open market, the philosopher in front of the Soviet Cultural Center or the humanitarian I met on Lan Sang Road.

It's too bad that I have not had a chance to write about the pretty owner of the "Coffee de Vientiane" coffee shop. I later learned that she had earned a Ph.D. from the University of Paris. I stopped by and talked with her two more times and learned that she was related to one of the leading figures in the old regime. She had a very interesting reason for staying there even though there were many other choices open to her.

But I have to say good-bye to her and these other people. Good-bye lovely Vientiane.

11943

CSO: 4207/130

THAI MEKONG PATROLS, SRV TROOP PRESENCE ON ROUTE 9

Bangkok MATUPHUM in Thai 23 Feb 84 p 7

[Article by Meedet Techo: "The Mekong river, a River of Friendship"]

[Text] The fair during February attracted a large crowd of people from all over. Some people went swimming on the afternoon of 14 February. Most of the people came from remote rural areas and crowded along the bank of the Mekong River in That Phanom District. Some of them looked at the country across the river and at the islets. They watched the boats pick up people. But the boats went out only as far as the middle of the Mekong River and then returned to the bank, careful not to go out too far or too close to the islet in the middle of the river. If they had gone too close, there is no telling what the Pathet Lao on the islet might have done.

At approximately 1350 hours, an MROU boat left the river bank. The forward gunner was at his post, and the aft gunner was adjusting the sights and removing the cover. The boat backed up slowly for about 100 meters and flashed its forward signal light to an old marine police boat docked along the bank. I grabbed my camera and adjusted the lens to get pictures of the activities of the MROU boat since I felt sure that something unusual was happening. Normally, an [MROU] boat will not leave the bank unless it is going on patrol.

The MROU boat slowly turned toward the north. The M60 gunner pointed the gun over the side of the boat to the east. The boat remained stationary without anything happening. A moment later, there were shouts telling people to look towards the north. I looked in that direction and remembered that the MROU boat had left the bank for just this reason.

Two cargo boats of the Lao People's Democratic Republic were headed slowly toward the Thai side of the river. The distance narrowed from 1,000 meters to 800 meters and then 500 meters. At that moment, a tri-colored fiberglass boat, a fast attack boat, left the That Phanom marine station and sped toward the two Lao cargo boats. It signaled the marine police boat once again. I could see the people on the two cargo boats scurrying about.

I felt sure that something was going to happen this time. The large MROU boat sped forward with its forward gun trained on the two cargo boats. This gun greatly frightened the Patnet Lao since it had great fire power. The morale of the sailors was high and they would be counted on to act resolutely.

When the smaller [MROU] boat came within 100 meters of the two cargo boats, the forward boat turned and headed toward its own waters. The two MROU boats sailed side by side until the two cargo boats reached the deep-water channel and then returned.

This was very frightening. And many other Thais who were sailing around in longboats when this happened felt the same way since they did not know what would happen after the MROU boats left the station. If something had happened as in the past, the villagers in these small boats would have had a very difficult time.

But because the Mekong River is a river of friendship, with both sides allowed to use the deep-water channel based on mutual understanding, everything was orderly.

During the time that the two MROU boats sailed side by side with the two Lao cargo boats, I rented a pair of binoculars that a person had brought along to rent to people who wanted to get a look at socialist Laos. Using the binoculars, I watched what happened on the boats. I saw helmets bobbing up and down at the edge of the boats. Those wearing the helmets definitely had AK rifles in their hands. If people had gotten nervous something might have happened.

The two Lao cargo boats were of the same type. The boats were not more than 30 meters long. I don't know whether they were built of steel or wood since they were painted gray. They looked like sea-going vessels. The forward gunwales were high. The middle part of the boats were used to carry cargo. There was a canvas cloth to protect the sailors from the sun. The cabin to the rear of the boat served as a place for resting and for storing important equipment. The names of the boats were visible above the aft cabins, and flags were flying above the smokestacks. The two boats headed toward the newly-built port at Keng Kabao and Savannakhet.

Normally, it takes cargo boats 2-3 days to transport goods from Vientiane to Savannakhet. Each trip, one or two platoons of armed Vietnamese soldiers, together with LPDR soldiers, go along to provide protection. No more than two platoons are used to provide protection against attack by Lao national liberation forces. Soldiers were present on these two cargo ships, too.

The Hat Kham 3 and the Vientiane 2 are used as cargo boats. The Soviet Union provided help by sending equipment to build a port at Keng Kabao and to build strategic Route 9, which cuts across from southern Vietnam past Route 13 to Keng Kabao. This port has offices [that were built] with

the help of East Germany. It is a deep-water port. Rock was blasted away to allow ships to dock here. Construction is almost complete. It can be seen from the Thai side with the naked eye. During April, the channel narrows and there are islets. People can then walk across at this point.

In 1984, the Soviet Union and Vietnam gave Laos a sum of money to build a road from the coast of Vietnam to Laos that could be used to bring in goods without having to go through Thailand. In addition to building this road, this money is also being used to build concrete bridges in various areas so that trucks will be able to transport goods more easily, and the Lao people will become more deeply imbued with socialism, which is what their policies stipulate.

The number of problems encountered this year has dropped because of the national development preparations. For some goods, they have to rely on Thailand. If there are border problems national development will not proceed smoothly. In particular, [there will be problems in obtaining] machinery and parts.

Concerning the fact that Vietnamese troops go along to provide protection when building materials are shipped from Vientiane down the Mekong river, we don't know whether "dakkong" units--Vietnamese intelligence units--and saboteurs go along too or not. The border is very long. Also, large numbers of Vietnamese live along the Mekong river--from Nong Khai to Nakhon Phanom, Muk Da Han and certain areas of Ubon Ratchathani. The "dakkong" troops have received excellent training. They can speak the local dialect spoken in the northeast. They are able to sneak in and out with the help of certain Vietnamese who live in Thailand. Determining who is a member of the "dakkong" unit would be a challenge even for the CIA or the KGB since these people are skilled in making use of the events that occur along the border.

Sometimes experience and a forward-looking view are helpful in solving problems. Today, the Mekong River is still a river of friendship.

The event observed that day showed that the Thai people are living in peace on both land and water because of the protection afforded by our military. That day, the people had great faith in Thailand.

Everything is all right. There are no problems along the Mekong River.

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CSO: 4207/130

KENG KABAO PORT, LPA UNITS ALONG ROUTE 9

Bangkok MATUPHUM in Thai 3 Mar 84 p 7

[Article by Meedet Techo: "From the Volga to the Mekong"]

[Text] Along the Mekong River, the river of friendship, there are frequently new things worth keeping an eye on. Last time, for example, the boats Hat Kham 3 and Vientiane 2 headed toward the Thai side and the MROU [Mekong river Operations Unit] had to warn the boats to move back into their own deep-water channel. Normally, in the flood season, the river is full, and it is easy to operate boats. But when the flood waters recede or during the dry season, both countries have to operate their boats in the deep-water channel in accord with the various treaties made during the period when France held power in Indochina and we had to comply in order to be able to live in peace.

During the dry season, near the islets in the middle of the river, rocky mounds protrude up everywhere. For example, in the Kabao channel or at Keng Kabao, there are markers that were erected when the French surveyed the channel and erected the markers to inform people where the safe areas were. Occasionally, boats going upstream don't have sufficient power to go against the current, and they hit the rocks and sink.

The markers marking the deep-water channel are repaired periodically. Each marker is around a hundred years old, which is almost the age of the colonialists who had influence over Indochina. Mr Somphong Khuankhru said that the markers will be color coded. A red marker will tell a boat to move toward the east while a black marker will tell the boat to move toward the west. The colors telling which direction to move will be painted on the tops of the markers. These markers are made of concrete. Some of them have been washed away by the current, with only a tip showing above the water.

The islet near the Kabao channel, or Keng Kabao extends for about 100 meters into the Mekong River channel and so it is possible to walk from the bank out into the middle of the channel. The sound of the water striking the rocks is clearly audible. Most of the rocks are sandstone rocks that are billions of years old. On the average, it takes about 8,000 years for material to build up to form 1 foot of sandstone.

Keng Kabao forms the end of the Phu Phan mountain chain on the Thai side and the end of the Annam mountain chain on the Lao side, which is a mountain range that extends down from Yunnan in China. Along the northern bank of the islet, the soil is rich in humus. The villagers grow vegetables, yam beans and potatoes. The villagers say that the root of the yam bean is rich in starch and sugar. When they are dug up from the sand, they are very sweet and crunchy. In the clefts between the rocks, weeds and wild berries grow. Fish live in the river eddies, and villagers fish there all day. Most of the fish are located close to the Lao side since the Lao People's Democratic Republic (LPDR) forbids villagers from fishing farther out than 100 meters from the bank. And before they can fish, they must first obtain permission from the canton.

Keng Kabao has a very interesting past for those who love struggles for justice and democracy. Those who have been here probably know about this.

Route 9 from the Vietnamese port of Danang ends at Keng Kabao. At Ban Kabao in Laos, there are offices for state officials and storehouses for goods sent from Danang for shipment to Khammouan and Vientiane. During the dry season, the channel is 30 meters deep since the rock was blasted away and a passage opened up so that boats could come and dock. There is a wall to keep the earth from caving in. There is a road that vehicles can use to reach the port when there are large quantities of goods. This facility was surveyed by people from the Soviet Union and built by East Germans. The equipment came from Japan. The person who drew up the plans was a Lao who studied at a technical college in Thailand. Construction began in 1979. Now, it is expected that everything will be completed by the end of 1984.

Keng Kabao Port in Laos is 20 kilometers from Seno and about 60 kilometers from Savannakhet. Route 9 runs to Danang Port on the coast of the South China Sea. Goods sent by boat to help the Lao People's Democratic Republic are off-loaded at Danang Port.

The unit responsible for guarding Keng Kabao Port is the 4th Battalion of the 4th Brigade at Seno. And a division of Soviet soldiers dressed in green uniforms with buttons at the cuffs and boots and wearing helmets provide support using "Be"-41s.

The commander of the 4th Brigade is Lieutenant Colonel Khamdaeng (no surname). The brigade has two bridge construction vehicles, 10 tanks and eight personnel carriers. Concerning the Soviet division, as yet, no one has identified the regiments and battalions. It moves to various important points along the bank of the Mekong River to help the local militia protect the bases and destroy the Lao national liberation movement.

In giving this article the title "From the Volga to the Mekong," I was referring to the Vientiane and Hat Kham cargo ships. Looking at the structure and form and comparing these with the 1,00-ton Andria, which

has a speed of 15 knots and which operates on the Black Sea and certain parts of the Volga River, the bows of the ships are quite similar. But looking at the wooden boats that operate in the Mekong river, many differences can be seen, particularly the smokestacks and the components of the body of the boats.

The Vientiane and Hat Kham arrived only recently. The two small submarines [as published] that are used for infiltration and underwater combat have not been used or have been kept north of the Nam Ngum Dam. The Vientiane and Hat Kham are small boats that operate in the river. They used to carry cargo on the Volga and other rivers in the Soviet Union. They use a 500-horsepower Elan engine. They were disassembled and transported here by air and then reassembled in Vientiane. They are used as multipurpose boats in normal times. To use them as combat boats, guns have to be attached. Or stated simply, they can be turned into warships by attaching guns that use the same guidance system as tank guns that use a guide-wire system. And their speed can be increased.

Three river patrol boats similar to those used by the MROU were docked at the Tha Khaek Port. Vietnam had given them these boats, which had been captured from the Americans when the Americans used them in various rivers in southern Vietnam.

But I have said previously that for skill, morale and bravery, the MROU can still be trusted and relied on. All along the Mekong River, the people who have witnessed the events that have taken place all say the same thing.

Talking about the Mekong river, which is a thousand kilometers long and which brings prosperity to the peoples on both sides of the river, if the people are once again able to cross back and forth as brothers like before and help each other when there are problems or food shortages, the peoples on both sides will have happiness, and there will probably be much to talk about. But this is just a dream for the future.

Keng Kabao is worth keeping an eye on since it is here that goods from the Soviet Union are smuggled into Thailand and goods from Thailand are smuggled out since greed pushes people to do things even though they might be arrested.

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CSO: 4207/130

LIM KENG YAIK ON NEP, GERAKAN'S SEPTEMBER ELECTION

Selangor SIN CHEW JIT POH MALAYSIA in Chinese 13 Feb 84 p 9

[Text] Dr Lim Keng Yaik, president of the Malaysian People's Movement [Gerakan Rakyat Malaysia or GERAKAN] asserted that it is necessary for the government to draw up a new economic plan to replace the New Economic Policy [NEP] for dealing specifically with poverty in both rural and urban areas.

He maintained that it serves no purpose to extend the NEP, because the target by which the Malays would attain a 30 percent corporate equity has been reached, while the fight against poverty has not brought any result, particularly against destitute urban conditions which are often neglected by the authorities.

Dr Lim pointed out that only the promulgation of a new national economic plan will enable all citizens, regardless of race and religious belief, to have a share in the economic field.

With regard to his party's election in September this year, he said that it will be held in a calm and peaceful atmosphere, not an intense or turbulent one as predicted by some newspapers.

Dr Lim made these remarks at the inauguration of a new GERAKAN branch at Sungei Lame, which is under the jurisdiction of Bukit Tengah, near Bukit Mertajam last night, which occasion also served as a Lunar New Year party.

In his speech, he described how Bukit Mertajam has developed from a banana plantation into a prosperous residential district, thanks to the struggle of his party.

During the past few years, GERAKAN has trained and absorbed many talents and successors. He claimed that GERAKAN is the only political party which is capable of making a scholarly analysis of government policies and, after listening to public opinion, of studying further and carrying on the fight to the cabinet and Parliament.

He said that his party's researchers often make an in-depth study and research of government policy matters and fight for the interests of the people, such as the question of electoral district reapportionment.

He said that the forthcoming midterm review of the Fourth Malaysia Plan will affect our future economic trend and exert a great influence on our people. GERAKAN intends to publish the result of its analysis in the newspapers in order to generate public interest.

Dr Lim added that his party will soon issue a new slogan for the national economic plan and urge the government to narrow the gap between the rich and the poor in both rural and urban areas, so that all citizens, regardless of race and religious belief, can fairly and reasonably receive the benefits of our national economic development.

Earlier, he expressed satisfaction with the qualitative and quantitative improvements achieved by his party within the past few years.

He admitted that differences in opinion within GERAKAN's various echelons cannot be averted, but when dealing with external pressures, its members can speedily get united and repel them in line with party goals. This is because the members have intensified their political awareness in recent years by putting the party's goals and ideals above personal interests.

He said that GERAKAN fights against outsiders, but not with its own members.

Dr Lim pointed out that after years of study by its central committee and the issuance of clear-cut political goals, the members are now able to march forward correctly, although, he admitted, some of them stubbornly refuse to appreciate the party's ideals and pursue their personal interests instead.

He urged that political careerists and opportunists ought to sit down calmly and study GERAKAN's traditional goals and elections.

He said that the party has neither the time nor the inclination to deal with petty and trivial matters. "We plan on concentrating our energy to deal with problems concerning our country's economic policy."

During the meeting, he kept referring to the national economic plan, as if he already knew that the coming mid-term review of the Fourth Malaysia Plan contains several serious economic problems.

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CSO: 4205/53

EROSION OF ETHNIC CHINESE POLITICAL, EDUCATION RIGHTS DESCRIBED

Selangor KIN KWOK DAILY NEWS in Chinese 16 Feb 84 p 2

[Text] Tee Ann Chuan, chairman of the board of KIN KWOK DAILY NEWS, pointed out that our Chinese compatriots are faced with many problems today and that their political, cultural and education rights are being eroded. This is a fact that our compatriots must pay attention to, he added.

Mr Tee's message was read on his behalf by Sim Khiao Cheng, deputy general manager of the Youth Solidarity Movement Cooperative Society, at a Lunar New Year gathering for the canvassing of scholarship donations organized by the Malacca state committee of the KIN KWOK DAILY NEWS Scholarship Fund. Mr Tee was unable to attend the meeting due to a previous engagement.

Mr Tee said that the electoral district reapportionment is a good case in point. The redistricting plan recently announced by the Elections Commission contains many errors. For instance, the number of voters in each Malay constituency is about 30,000 people. This means that the Malays may have a representative in Parliament for every 30,000 voters. For the Chinese, however, the number of voters in each Chinese constituency is between 50,000 and 60,000 people. Thus, the Malays' electoral districts have been increased, but those of the Chinese have been reduced and their already weak position eroded further.

Consequently, the Youth Solidarity Movement on 15 January launched a "1,000,000 signatures" movement opposing the redistricting plan and requesting the Elections Commission to revise it. A total of 100,000 signatures were collected from among Chinese representing various walks of life within a week, and it was submitted to the commission in the form of a petition. The Youth Solidarity Movement will keep on pushing this action, collecting more signatures as a token of protest against the reapportionment plan.

On the issue of population, Mr Tee said that based on the most recent census figures, the growth rate of the Chinese population in Malaysia is low. Their growth rate averaged 2.7 percent during the past decade. Between 1970 and 1980, the Malay population grew from 52.7 percent to 55.3 percent, while the Chinese population dropped from 35.8 percent to 33.8 percent. If this trend persists, there will be 11 million Malays but only 5 million Chinese by the year 2000. At that time, the Chinese political strength and rights will surely be eroded further.

That is why, Mr Tee said, he hopes that our Chinese compatriots, particularly the affluent group, will wake up and halt birth control in order to replenish our population and safeguard our position and rights.

To arouse Chinese attention to the declining number of births in the Chinese population, the Youth Solidarity Movement has launched four kinds of contests: 1) an essay contest; 2) a contest of poster designs advocating population increase; 3) a contest of Chinese households with the largest number of children; and 4) a reward to Youth Solidarity Movement members for raising a large family. It is hoped that these contests will induce a massive number of Chinese compatriots to pay attention to the lurking danger.

With regard to education, Mr Tee said: "We must watch closely the problem of our children's education. To enable children of needy parents to complete their schooling, KIN KWOK DAILY NEWS has joined hands with our civic leaders in setting up a scholarship fund and in pooling our wisdom and efforts in order to cultivate talents for our country and people."

He said that the Malacca state committee has succeeded in holding this buffet party during the Lunar New Year and awarding stipends to the first batch of needy students. He expressed hope that the committee will make persistent efforts for the sake of other needy students.

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CSO: 4205/53

TAN KOON SWAN TALKS ABOUT CHINESE BUSINESSES

Selangor SIN CHEW JIT POH MALAYSIA in Chinese 27 Feb 84 p 11

[Text] Tan Koon Swan, chairman and concurrently managing director of the Multi-purpose Group of Companies, stressed today that in order to grow economically after being hit by a recession, the Chinese must internationalize their enterprises, otherwise they cannot aid the development of small-scale industries in our country.

In this respect, he proposed the concept of the "consortiumization" of industries, adding that apart from the Multi-purpose Group of Companies, share holdings owned by chambers of commerce and fraternal guilds can play a role.

He explained that the purpose of this "consortiumization" concept is to pool domestic products of the same category scattered throughout the country and sell them on international markets through a systematic trade organization.

He made these remarks during a question-and-answer period following his speech entitled "The Lesson We Have Learned From an Economic Recession" at a Chinese economic seminar organized by the Penang Chinese Chamber of Commerce this morning.

Tan Koon Swan, who is a member of Parliament, said that through the internationalization of industries, products of our small-scale enterprises can be sold domestically and marketed to foreign countries directly without the expensive services of middlemen abroad; furthermore, profits accruing from these foreign sales can be utilized to import commodities.

He disclosed that the Multi-purpose Management International Ltd. is at present sponsoring a nationwide business seminar with Chinese chambers of commerce, trade associations and manufacturers of various products to devise ways and means on how the Chinese can march toward international business.

However, he added, this plan will need at least 10 to 20 years before it can take effect.

In reply to a question concerning small-scale industries, Tan urged all small and medium enterprises to modernize themselves and improve their production techniques in order to face the huge competition of the bumiputras' participation.

He pointed out that 99 percent of small and medium industries across the nation are at present owned and operated by the Chinese. "However, we can see a trend that the bumiputras will have a 30 percent corporate equity in due course," he added.

He indicated that a 30 percent share ownership is not a serious problem. What is serious is that the Malays' small and medium industries are receiving aid from Japan in the form of new technology, new equipment and modern management. Consequently, Chinese industries will face keen competition.

In addition, many young bumiputras are undergoing training in Japan and South Korea, and when they get back, they are bound to play an important role in the bumiputras' enterprises.

Consequently, Tan Koon Swan said that the Chinese should jointly request that the government pay attention to their predicament today.

As to the reason why about 75 percent of small industries in our country have failed, Tan Koon Swan mentioned two causes: capitalization and marketing.

With regard to capitalization, he said that our banks and financial institutions tend to aim at the stimulation of our domestic market. That is why they should change their mentality and widen their outlook.

He explained that the saddest thing faced by small-scale industries is that whenever they want to borrow money from the bank, the credit is restricted to the construction of a factory or the purchase of machinery, but not to the formation of a market development fund. By the time the factory is about to make some profit, say, 5 years later, the bank has begun to claim a payment of the loan. Add to this the recession, and the said factory cannot do anything but fold up.

Consequently, Tan maintained, bank credits to enterprises or manufacturers should be extended to 8 or 10 years. A 2-year credit will not help encourage economic growth.

In this connection, the government should revise its thinking, and banks should do likewise, in order to help small-scale industries accomplish their tasks.

With respect to Chinese businessmen's participation in privatization projects, Tan held that the Chinese should first of all have an organization and a system to put their businesses in order. Otherwise, there would be no way for the Chinese to take an active part in major privatization projects.

As opportunities are still plentiful, we must devise some guidelines and concepts to carry out what must be done, and we can accomplish many things if we join forces.

"It's high time to work and to plan energetically, but not to be bothered with little things," he stressed.

Earlier, Tan Koon Swan said in his speech that the 1982 recession was a serious blow to our national economy, from which we have learned a precious lesson. Everybody has learned during the past 2 years that this world is an indivisible system under which the peoples of various countries are interdependent.

"In our country," he said, "the government and the people are also mutually dependent. The component nationalities have a common destiny. To rescue the nation's politics and economy, the government must rely on the entire people, on the cooperation between government and people." That is why the prime minister proclaimed the "Malaysia, Inc." concept and stressed the cooperative relationship and spirit between the public and private sectors.

Tan added: "There is no doubt that in addition to government-people cooperation and understanding, all nationalities must maintain close solidarity, or else we cannot realize our ideals of 'making our country rich and building up our people's strength.'"

Therefore, the narrow idea of monopoly and dominance by a particular nationality is no longer encouraged these days.

He said that if the "Malaysia, Inc.," concept can be transformed into a policy and a program in the future and applied to the people's livelihood, Malaysia's economic development will enter a new era.

Tan Koon Swan, who is a justice of the peace, said that as one of the three major races in Malaysia, the Chinese should have a greater say in the nation's economic mainstream in order to safeguard our economic, cultural and educational interests.

As regards the Multi-purpose Holdings, he divulged that this group of companies has completed its unification and consolidation work. It has cleared more than half of its M\$320 million debt and has gotten out of the recession predicament. Due to recent constitutional amendment problems, some of its plans were belatedly approved, but he believes that all difficulties can be resolved.

There are many things in the economic fields to be done by the Chinese community, and we see opportunities galore. The question is that we must be able to grasp these opportunities and organize ourselves.

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CSO: 4205/56

EDITORIAL DISCUSSES CHINESE MAKING UNAUTHORIZED TRIPS TO CHINA

Selangor SIN CHEW JIT POH MALAYSIA in Chinese 29 Feb 84 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text:] The main motive of PRC Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian's visit to our country was to "exchange views and coordinate standpoints" with our leaders on the latest developments in Kampuchea. Another motive, which was of great significance, was to hold discussions concerning bilateral problems.

Among the bilateral problems, the unauthorized visits of ethnic Chinese Malaysian citizens to China, drew the closest attention of our government. According to our existing policy, except for official business, commercial activities and other special cases, our citizens are not permitted to visit China at will. As a matter of fact, only those persons who have close relatives in China, who need medical treatment or who are over 65 years of age are qualified to apply for a special passport to China.

Recently, however, our deputy minister of home affairs, Mohd Kassim bin Ahmed, issued a warning saying that the authorities have discovered many ethnic Chinese citizens who surreptitiously visited China without prior permission. In this connection, after his meeting with PRC Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian, Datuk Musa Hitam, deputy prime minister and home minister, pointed out that Malaysian citizens who privately visit China without permission from the authorities are liable to have their citizenship revoked. He stressed that as the Chinese and Malaysian Communist Parties still maintain contact, the relationship between Malaysia and China is limited to the government-to-government level only, and mutual visitations by their respective citizens are not included therein. He even pointed out that Malaysian citizens who hold "returned overseas Chinese entry permits" hold something akin to dual nationality.

These words show that our government adopts a strict attitude toward this matter. It is believed that after the discussions between our leaders and Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian, China will take effective, precautionary measures against the recurrence of our citizens' clandestine trips to China.

As to those ethnic Chinese citizens who visited China despite repeated warnings by the authorities, they must be feeling uneasy at heart. But will they be "punished"?

According to a certain report, a number of unethical travel agencies cheated prospective clients by bragging about their ability to "arrange matters for a family reunion in China." The same source said that these agencies charged a high price but neglected to apply for a special permit to the Immigration Bureau on behalf of their clients. What they did was merely take the customers to Hong Kong and hand them over to the agencies' counterparts which, in turn, would make arrangements so the travelers could enter China via Hong Kong or Macao.

Other travel agencies "render services" to their clients in two ways: Those who comply with Malaysian government regulations are given service legally and accordingly, but other clients whose travel documents are incomplete are not turned down but are escorted to Hong Kong whence they enter China through some illegal channel.

In view of this, it is possible that among those ethnic Chinese citizens discovered to have made private visits to China, many did it through their ignorance of government regulations or the trickery of some unscrupulous travel bureaus. Therefore, the authorities should adopt a lenient attitude in handling and solving this problem. On the other hand, the very few, irresponsible travel agencies should be appropriately sanctioned.

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CSO: 4205/56

CHEN MAN HIN CONSIDERS RESTRICTIONS ON TRAVEL TO CHINA UNJUST

Selangor KIN KWOK DAILY NEWS in Chinese 29 Feb 84 p 2

[Text] Chen Man Hin, national chairman of the Democratic Action Party [DAP], said today that the government restriction against ethnic Chinese citizens who travel to China is a measure which is unnecessary, unreasonable and unrelated to the ideological concepts of the travelers concerned.

He made this remark during a news conference held at the DAP service center in Seremban today.

He said that Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Musa Hitam has issued a warning against those ethnic Chinese citizens who traveled to China without prior approval from the Malaysian authorities. However, the prime minister did not divulge the number of such travelers.

Of course, the DAP disapproves of the practice of these people visiting China without prior government approval, Chen Man Hin said, adding that they should abide by our regulations. However, he differed with the way the Malaysian authorities have tried to restrict freedom of movement.

Dr Chen pointed out that he has contacted many Chinese who have returned from their China trips. He said that virtually all of them admired China's beautiful scenic spots and historical relics, but none appreciated her socioeconomic system and the low living standards of her people. The Chinese lifestyle is entirely different from ours and Malaysia is truly our homeland, Dr Chen said.

He continued that Deputy Prime Minister Musa Hitam has often criticized the collaboration between the Chinese and Malaysian Communist Parties, and such criticism has hindered the normal development of Sino-Malaysian relations.

Dr Chen said that the prime minister should understand the nature of the Malaysian Communist Party and that its existence by no means represents the Chinese people. More and more Malaysians, including the ethnic Chinese people, have indicated that they would prefer to express their views, their anger and their dissatisfaction through the right to vote. The majority of them support the democratic parliamentary system.

It is unjust to issue restrictions against the majority simply because of the existence of the Malaysian Communist Party, he said. All Malaysians, including the Malaysian Chinese, must have the right of freedom to travel to China and not be subjected to the present inconceivable restrictions.

Dr Chen pointed out that a certain neighboring ASEAN member has revoked such restrictions, but this particular country has not been faced with a greater threat and all its returning travelers strongly indicated that they love their country more than ever before and that they want to be buried there when they die.

The DAP urged Datuk Musa Hitam to review and revoke his redundant restriction and to clarify the freedom of our people to travel to and trade with China as well as other countries.

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CSO: 4205/56

TEE ANN CHUAN CRITICIZES ANWAR'S STATEMENT ON NATIONAL CULTURE POLICY

Selangor KIN KWOK DAILY NEWS in Chinese 19 Feb 84 p 2

[Text] Tee Ann Chuan, president of the Malaysian Youth Solidarity Movement [MYSM], strongly criticized the statement made by Anwar Ibrahim, minister of culture, youth and sports, in Kota Bharu, which Mr Tee described as irresponsible and deplorable.

At a discussion meeting on culture, Minister Anwar said: "The question of national culture has reached a conclusion. The party and government cannot make any concessions about the basic principles of our national culture which were already accepted by the public 20 years ago."

The MYSM regarded the minister's statement as imperious and undemocratic, narrow and indicative of a high-pressure policy.

It is the MYSM's understanding that three assemblies concerning culture were held in our country. The first gathering, called "Malays' Culture Conference," took place in Malacca on 28 December 1957, and a relevant monograph was published at that time. The second meeting, called the "National Culture Conference," was held at the University of Malaya from 16-20 August 1971 and was also accompanied with a relevant monograph. The third one, called the "Malay World Conference," was held in Malacca on 23 December 1982.

In the monograph published after the second meeting on culture, one finds the following explanation: "All opinions expressed in this book represent the personal views of the author and in no way represent the standpoint of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports." During the said conference, former premier Tun Razak also pointed out: "Today's meeting is our first step to seek the roots of our national culture. I gladly remind one and all that we came here for the purpose of discussion only and that all drafts merely represent the viewpoints of the participants concerned." Among the 52 proposals submitted to the meeting, only 1 came from a Chinese participant. This means that 95 percent of the recommendations were made by the Malays.

When was the draft drawn up by the meeting accepted by the government as the national culture policy? When was it accepted by the entire people?

The MYSM maintained that before establishing a policy, the government should first set up a specialized office to study the problem and give the general

public an opportunity to express their opinions and suggestions, in order to be truly acceptable to the people and to avert all possible disturbing and irresponsible outbursts of feelings.

The "National Culture Conference" monograph clearly stated that the said assembly was merely the first step toward the drafting of a national culture policy but was not naturally charged with drawing up the policy. Therefore, it is difficult to accept the minister's statement.

The MYSM also vehemently protested against the minister's random disparagement of the aspirations of the Chinese community, in which he said that the Chinese memorandum on the problem of national culture policy is such a trifling thing that it is not worth mentioning. By any standards, such disrespect of the cultural aspirations of other nationalities is a violation of the basic spirit of democracy. The MYSM requested the minister to clarify his statement before the Chinese public.

Finally, the MYSM wanted to point out that culture is continuously developing and interflowing and that it cannot be molded by compulsory means. Ours is a multinational country, and our national culture definitely cannot be devised on the basis of the outlook of one nationality only. The molding of a national culture must be based on the following four principles:

1. National constitution
2. National guidelines
3. Racial equality
4. Interracial consultations to safeguard the parallel development of all racial cultures and respectful interchange among various cultures.

The MYSM also requested the minister to hold a cultural seminar anew and to invite representatives of the people and the cultural and religious organizations to attend the meeting for the purpose of drawing up a fully acceptable national culture policy.

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CSO: 4205/53

COMMENTARY EXAMINES RESULTS OF FOURTH MALAYSIA PLAN

Selangor KIN KWOK DAILY NEWS in Chinese 16 Feb 84 p 2

[Commentary]

[Text] It is expected that the review of the Fourth Malaysia Plan will be put before Parliament for deliberations next month, so that this development plan can be coordinated with the current economic condition and continued until completion.

Although nobody has access to the detailed contents of the review, it is generally believed that the government will propose a new policy which will broaden sources of income and reduce expenditure.

In his public statement the other day, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Musa Hitam said that during the past 3 years, our economy was adversely affected by world recession and its growth rate was below par. In addition, the participation of the private sector in the Malaysia plan left much to be desired, which caused a reduction in national revenue. In such circumstances, the government has been compelled to adopt a new policy in order to be adjusted into prevailing conditions for the purpose of completing the plan.

Increasing income and decreasing expenditures are the best ways for a country to save itself when its economy is slack. This means that besides economizing on government expenditures, we must strive for the development of our economy and an increase in revenues.

Under the Fourth Malaysia Plan, our government has always relied on its strong national resources to bring about economic prosperity. However, in reviewing our economy for the past 3 years, we learned that the ongoing, unstable world economy created ill effects for our economic development. From 1981 to 1983, government revenues totaled M\$50.6 billion only, but it spent M\$50.1 billion for government administration alone.

Based on these figures, economizing on government administration is an essential thing to do. However, it has been the government's intention during the past few years to increase government official's salaries and improve their livelihood. If the government wants to follow a policy of retrenchment, the problem of increasing civil service salaries will be affected.

The government attaches great importance to the participation of the private sector in the Fourth Malaysia Plan. It has been estimated that out of a total investment of M\$102.64 billion, 72.2 percent or M\$74.11 billion will be derived from the private sector. However, this estimate fell short of its target during the past 3 years.

In the review of the Fourth Malaysia Plan, it is expected that the government will curtail the national development fund as much as possible, and certain development plans are likely to be shelved for the time being in favor of others with a high priority.

Finance Minister Tengku Razaleigh believes it is still inadequate for the government to adopt a retrenchment policy alone, adding that we must put our foreign loans under control. He said that we must pay attention to our foreign loans, because borrowing money from foreign countries will lead to a flight of national capital and this will eventually bring ill effects to our country.

On the other hand, the government must safeguard the capital derived from foreign credits and make sure that it is used to push plans with a development potential, not to encourage industrial investment, because such investment would involve a dangerous element.

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CSO: 4205/53

MCA TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST CHAPTERS WITH 'PHANTOM MEMBERS'

Selangor KIN KWOK DAILY NEWS in Chinese 19 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] Datuk Neo Yee Pan, acting president of the Malaysia Chinese Association [MCA], said today that his party will take disciplinary action against chapters with "phantom members."

He said that the names of "phantom members" will be scratched off the list, while the guilty chapters may be suspended from the party organization.

After officiating at the party's divisional meetings in Penang, Kedah and Perlis, Datuk Neo commented: "We have taken similar actions before." However, he did not specify which particular branches of the party had violated the ruling.

He added that the question of "Phantom members" is being tackled by the action committee of the party, to which it was referred 2 days before for discussion. During the meeting, two noted leaders, namely, MCA youth leader DATuk Lee Kim Sai and MCA central committee member Datuk Dr Ling Leong Sik, walked out. Both were dissatisfied over the action committee's refusal to provide them with the complete list of party members for the investigation.

Although the problem of phantom party members reportedly involve hundreds of thousands of people, many party leaders doubted whether the figure was reliable.

Commenting on the walkout by Lee Kim Sai and Ling Leong Sik, Acting President Datuk Neo said that under a democratic system, the minority should follow the majority.

MCA Secretary General Tan Sri Chong Hon Nyan, who was present at the news conference, said that Lee and Ling should not have expressed their dissatisfaction in public.

Datuk Neo stressed that while minority opinions may be respected, majority opinion should be the decisive factor.

On the problem of the party roster, he said that the party's central committee had already decided not long ago to hand over the lists of members to the party branches concerned.

Asked about Dr Ling Leong Sik's request for a full list of party members, Datuk Neo said that this problem will be decided by the central committee. In this connection, Tan Sri Chong Hon Nyan said: "If I find some bogus members, I'll kick them out."

Asked whether the party will take disciplinary action against Lee Kim Sai and Ling Leong Sik, Datuk Neo Yee Pan said: "You will get a report from Tan Sri Chong Hon Nyan soon."

Asked about his meetings with party divisional leaders, he said that he briefed them on the midterm review of the Fourth Malaysia Plan, electoral district reapportionment and MCA's election. He also reminded them that whenever differences of opinion occur in a central committee meeting, the minority should follow the majority, otherwise there would be a split in the party.

Datuk Neo also said that he told party divisional leaders that a party should accommodate all types of leaders and that if the MCA is not firm, it cannot be a stabilizing force in national politics or play its role in the affairs of state.

He told the divisional leaders that the president of a political party should not take sides in any internal squabble, because he holds the power to make final decisions.

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CSO: 4205/53

MALAYSIA

PASSPORTS REVOKED FOR UNAUTHORIZED VISITS TO CHINA

Violations Cited

Selangor KIN KWOK DAILY NEWS in Chinese 5 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] The government has revoked the passports of 53 Malaysian citizens who made unauthorized visits to China. If the Immigration Department carries on with its investigation, it may be expected that more people will lose their travel documents.

An official of the Ministry of Home Affairs explained that the step was taken after the ministry had discovered many Malaysian citizens who had visited China without prior application for a "special permit" to the authorities.

Deputy Prime Minister and concurrently Home Minister Datuk Musa Hitam already warned ethnic Chinese Malaysian citizens last Monday that if they made unauthorized visits to China, their citizenship might be jeopardized.

The home affairs officials also mentioned the "Permit for Overseas Chinese to Return to Their Fatherland" issued by the Chinese government for Malaysian Chinese. According to this report, this permit allows ethnic Chinese Malaysian citizens to visit China without using their Malaysian passports. This, in the view of the official, is tantamount to permitting these Malaysians to enjoy dual nationality.

He divulged further that a group of people had tried to hoodwink immigration authorities by producing letters and photographs purporting that the authorities had approved their visits to China. The Ministry of Home Affairs is in possession of a list of these people.

"We have most of their names in our hands. They had tried to fool the authorities with all sorts of tricks, including photographs of their relatives supposedly living in China but who are in fact in Hong Kong," the official said.

According to existing regulations, Malaysian passport holders who wish to travel to China and some other countries, including Albania, Cuba, East Germany, Israel, North Korea, Vietnam and South Africa, must first apply for a "special permit" to the Immigration Department for approval.

At any rate, in consideration of the traditional and racial relationships involving China and the Malaysian Chinese, the government will give special permission to Malaysian Chinese to enter China under one of the following five conditions:

1. To visit close relatives;
2. To seek medical treatment;
3. To attend the biennial Guangdong City Trade Fair or any small-scale trade exhibition organized by Chinese national corporations in any Chinese city;
4. To accompany a government delegation;
5. To take part in UN-organized activities held in China.

After acquiring the said "special permit," the applicant must apply for a visitor's visa from the Chinese embassy here.

Seriousness of Unauthorized Visits to China

Selangor KIN KWOK DAILY NEWS in Chinese 17 Mar 84 p 2

[Commentary]

[Text] Press coverage of the suspension of passports by the government has created a sensation and brought anxieties to the persons concerned, especially after the matter was brought up before Parliament by Deputy Home Affairs Minister Mohamad Kassim the other day.

The minister stated that not only will those persons who made unauthorized visits to China have their Malaysian passports revoked but their citizenship may also be withdrawn. His remark was definite. At the same time, he was giving a stern warning to those who visited China without getting government approval beforehand.

By common sense, when a person is deprived of his citizenship, he becomes stateless, and his status is no different from a slave of a foreign power. A more sorrowful plight there is none. Nobody wants to become a stateless person. That is why those persons who made unauthorized visits to China have become panicky.

In point of fact, before Malaysia and China established diplomatic relations, the government already strictly prohibited our citizens from having any dealings with China's citizens; even government-to-government contacts between the two countries were few and far between.

After the establishment of formal relations 10 years ago, contacts between the two countries mainly involved economic and trade activities, quite apart from matters of diplomacy. Private contacts between the Malaysian and Chinese peoples were not allowed, mainly because China is a Communist country, while Malaysia is a democratic country. There is much difference in the way of thinking and the ideologies of the two peoples.

However, after the establishment of diplomatic relations with China, our government slackened the restrictions on private and permitted our citizens to visit China under the following five conditions:

1. The person must be 65 years of age or older;
2. He wants to visit a direct-line relative;
3. He is member of a group visiting a China Commodity Trade Fair;
4. He is member of a UN agency's delegation;
5. He needs special medical treatment.

Judging by the government's policy, it is evident that excepting trade relationships, the authorities do not encourage our citizens to visit China, especially those with Chinese blood. On the other hand, the government also sets certain restrictions on Chinese groups who wish to visit our and disapproves of individual contacts between Malaysian citizens and Chinese citizens.

Although our government strictly controls our citizens' rights to visit China, yet why is it that many of them are involved in making unauthorized visits?

According to a survey made by the Ministry of Home Affairs, most of these people entered China by way of Hong Kong with the help of Hong Kong travel agencies which specialize in making arrangements for returning overseas Chinese. The travel agencies would apply for a temporary visa to the Chinese embassy in Hong Kong on behalf of their clients. With these provisional entry permits in lieu of their Malaysian passports, the overseas Chinese can proceed to China without much ado.

Many local ethnic Chinese Malaysian citizens thought that as their passports were not stamped with a visa for China, they would not be discovered as having visited that particular country. As a matter of fact, when a person leaves Hong Kong for China, the Hong Kong immigration authorities would put a chop on the holder's passport indicating his date of departure, irrespective of destination. When he reenters Hong Kong from China at a later date, his passport would again be chopped, showing his date of reentry. Now, from the two dates of departure from and reentry to Hong Kong stamped in the passport, one can easily deduce the whereabouts of the passport holder during the period covered. Now that their escapades to China have been uncovered, the "culprits" are putting the blame on Hong Kong travel bureaus. As a matter of fact, if the government wants to find out who has made unauthorized visits to China, it is as easy as turning one's hand over. Don't ever forget that intelligence officers of our government are doing their job at any time everywhere.

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CSO: 4205/57

COMMENTARY DISCUSSES DIFFICULT PROBLEMS FACING MALAYSIA PRODUCTS

Selangor KIN KWOK DAILY NEWS in Chinese 4 Mar 84 p 2

[Commentary]

[Text] While conducting a citizen education class under the auspices of a chapter of the United Malays National Organization [UMNO] at Hong Seng Bay, trade and industry minister Tengku Rithauddeen disclosed that certain advanced countries often create difficulties with some categories of our exports on the pretext that the goods fail to pass specifications. The minister added that their complaints are in fact unfounded and unreasonable and that these so-called advanced countries are deliberately making things difficult for the industrial progress and economic growth of developing nations.

Citing an example, Minister Rithauddeen said that these advanced countries restrict the importation of our canned pineapples on the ground that the pineapple pieces are too big. Another foreign country claimed that the proportion of salt and syrup in each can is 0.3 percent in excess of its requirements; therefore our canned pineapples are not permitted to be marketed in that country.

Using such unreasonable excuses to restrict the imports of a country is not a fair way to conduct foreign trade but a deliberate attempt to make things difficult by raising all kinds of obstacles.

These advanced countries which are insincere in importing goods from developing countries have many barriers and regulations, as if they wanted us to do the impossible.

Therefore, their promise of aiding the industries of developing countries is merely empty talk. Their chief aim is to control our economy, to compel us to serve their economic growth, to make our market the dumping ground for their products and then to extract

our national wealth. That is why trade relations between the developed and developing countries can never reach an equilibrium. The unfavorable trade balance is always on the side of the developing countries.

It is wishful thinking if we totally pin our hopes on advanced countries' aid in industrial techniques or technology.

It is correct for us to march toward industrialization in order to develop our economy. We must absolutely not stand still and refuse to make progress. We need wider markets for our manufactured or semi-manufactured products. But we must not import the machinery of a certain country simply because we need that country's market for our products. This will defeat our purpose of expanding our foreign markets and is also sort of an unfair deal.

Therefore, we need to form a trade commission charged with the task of studying and analyzing the quality of our products. At the same time, this commission is required to visit foreign countries from time to time to study the markets in order to understand their demand and requirement for our commodities, and also enable us to improve our products steadily in order to face competition in foreign markets.

Naturally, due to our backward technology and undeveloped industry, some of our manufactured goods cannot compete against those made in advanced countries. This is a problem faced by other developing countries, too. However, there are a number of fine-quality goods we should be able to manufacture ourselves without relying on imports. So, as long as we are willing to make a determined effort to work harder and improve ourselves, we will be able to compete with outsiders and create a springtime for our country.

Many countries in this world are lacking in natural resources, but their development and prosperity are far ahead of naturally endowed countries. This is because they are adept at emulating the good points of others to counteract their own weaknesses.

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CSO: 4205/57

COMMENTARY CALLS FOR RAW MATERIALS PROCESSING TECHNOLOGY

Selangor KIN KWOK DAILY NEWS in Chinese 3 Mar 84 p 2

[Commentary]

[Text] Speaking at the opening ceremony of the Japan Industrial Technology Exhibition, Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir succinctly laid bare the shortcomings of our national economy. In his speech, he stressed two points: First, we are a raw materials exporting country and our economy is manipulated by foreigners, and second, our people lack a positive attitude to learn foreign technology, which has caused our industries to lag far behind other countries.

His remarks on the said points complement each other, as backward technology and raw material exports are interrelated, a manifestation of cause and effect.

Although our country is blessed with fabulous natural resources, such as petroleum, tin, timber, natural rubber and palm oil, yet we cannot give full play to our wealth. In other words, we do not possess advanced technology to turn these raw materials into finished products to be exported to foreign countries.

Japan and China are two major partners in our export-import trade. However, 90 percent of our goods exported to Japan are in the form of raw materials and primary goods, such as tin ore, timber, natural rubber and crude palm oil, while Japan's exports to our country mainly comprise industrial machinery and finished products.

With regard to China, our exports are mainly natural rubber and timber, and our imports from China consist of industrial machinery, foodstuffs and finished products.

This is a most disadvantageous kind of foreign trade, because the prices of raw materials and primary goods are not determined by the exporting country concerned but are manipulated by the fluctuation of quotations in the international markets. Therefore, the fate of our economy lies in the hands of foreigners.

Take tin and natural rubber as examples. Although Malaysia is one of the world's principal tin and natural rubber producers, yet the prices of these two commodities are manipulated by British and American business.

This is a most unfair phenomenon. The only way to get rid of this unfair restraint is through an economic self-renewal movement, that is, by making unremitting efforts to improve ourselves.

The chief aim of this self-renewal movement is to improve our industrial standards, turn our primary goods into manufactured commodities and then sell them to foreigners. It is far from easy to reach this goal, for this needs government promotion and guidance and the energetic support and cooperation of the sector.

Japan, Taiwan and Hong Kong have been successful in their economic self-renewal movements, especially Japan which has been generally accepted as an economic power all over the world. Defeated in World War II, the Japanese have since been unceasingly developing their country's economy. Although they did not invent the wristwatch, yet by emulating Swiss watch technology, the Japanese have now become a powerful country in the world watch industry.

Japan did not invent the automobile, either. Yet, by learning from Germany's automotive engines, she has become a country with one of the most developed automobile industries.

During the past 10 years, Japan, by relying on her own technology and coordinating raw materials imported from foreign countries, has manufactured many fine-quality products and marketed them worldwide, bringing in large amounts of foreign currency into her national treasury.

Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir's promotion of "learning from the East" has, as its aim, our learning the Japanese work attitude, management method, discipline and spirit of dedication.

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CSO: 4205/57

CRITICISM OF GOVERNMENT BY STUDENTS STUDYING ABROAD

Selangor SIN CHEW JIT POH MALAYSIA in Chinese 3 Mar 84 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Musa Hitam has clarified the point that the government's recent announcement that it would take strong action against fault-finding Malaysian students abroad is merely directed at those "bellicose elements" who want to overthrow our government by terrorism.

The deputy prime minister stressed that the government has not forbidden, and will not forbid, Malaysian students studying in foreign countries from criticizing our government. Consequently, apart from those warlike elements, other Malaysian students who are studying abroad on government scholarships or at their own expense may freely speak their minds or even be encouraged to do so. He emphasized that the government will maintain a broadminded view and welcome our foreign students to offer even severe criticisms which would be accepted and adopted by the government, if they turn out to be apt and reasonable.

According to statistics, Malaysian students are scattered in 20 foreign countries, numbering more than 50,000 in all. There is no doubt that among them are to be found "brilliant elements" who will become our national pillars.

However, ever since Prime Minister Dr Mahathir's public disclosure after his return from four-nation visit last January, to the effect that the conduct of some of our Malaysian students abroad leaves much to be desired, many national leaders have come out one after another to reprimand the said students for indiscriminately sabotaging our national image. Early last month, Datuk Abdullah Ahmad, a minister in the Prime Minister's Department, announced that the government is planning to deal with "dissident elements"

found among Malaysian students who are studying abroad. Datuk Khalid Yaakob, deputy minister of education, also let it be known that beginning this year, those Malaysian students, abroad who oppose or are dissatisfied with our government's policies are required to fill in a form, explaining why the government should not take action against them.

The government's serious warnings not only have caused anxieties to the parents concerned but have also evoked comments from some segments of the public who argued that the government measure against the dissenting students--whether by revoking their scholarships or ordering them to return to Malaysia--constitutes a violation of every citizen's constitutional right to freedom of expression.

We should affirm that the overwhelming majority of the students studying abroad are mature in their thinking and concerned with national affairs. Using patriotism as their point of departure, these students have expressed their own opinions on our national policies and problems. This is an indication that they can think independently. Therefore, while their views may contain flaws, they may have some good points too.

Of course, there may be some misguided elements among the students. According to official disclosure, this tiny group of Malaysian students overseas not only criticized the government for believing in heresy, opposing Islamic tenets and amassing immoral wealth but also attacked the prime minister, deputy prime minister and all other cabinet members as Islamic heretics. These students even profess the idea of overthrowing our government by means of terror and announce that after returning to Malaysia, they will form a political party to topple the government.

Evidently, if we do not separate this extremist student group from the responsible majority, it will be difficult to deal with the undesirable elements. At the same time, it is disadvantageous for us to give a blanket encouragement to all Malaysian students studying abroad to be concerned with affairs of state or to be daring in thinking and speaking out loud.

The deputy prime minister's clarification is a timely one.

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CSO: 4205/57

COMMENTARY CALLS FOR DIRECT MALAYSIA-CHINA TRADE

Selangor KIN KWOK DAILY NEWS in Chinese 1 Mar 84 p 2

[Commentary]

[Text] PRC Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian's main purpose in visiting our country was to discuss political issues concerning Kampuchea with our leaders. However, when trade and industry minister Tengku Rithauddeen received the visitor at his office the other day, he brought up again the problem of direct Malaysia-China trade.

Trading between Malaysia and China has been increasing ever since the two countries established diplomatic relations 10 years ago. In recent years our country proposed that both countries set up a direct trade relationship with the view to attaining equality and mutual benefit. Although such a proposal has been brought up several times, no reaction whatsoever has come forth from the Chinese side.

Already we set up a Malaysian trade office in Peking last July in order to attain this goal, but China has not indicated any positive reaction. This is a deplorable fact.

Tengku Rithauddeen also renewed his appeal for China to establish a commercial organization in our country to act as a general agent for China's products. At the moment, China's general commercial agency throughout our country is represented by our National Enterprise Corporation. If China sets up an official commercial organization, both countries can carry on direct trade through these organizations.

Why is it that China has always imported her products to our country through Hong Kong or Singapore? We have learned that such a method of trade is more profitable to China, because through the transshipment system, she can maintain the cost price of her commodities at a relatively low level.

Everybody knows that China has always marketed her exports world-wide through Hong Kong and other free ports, thereby reducing transportation costs and making the goods more competitive in foreign markets.

On the other hand, our trade with China is carried out through the adoption of an "f.o.b." price. Therefore, such a trade relationship is most disadvantageous to us, and that is the reason why we have always wanted to have direct trade with China.

According to statistics, our trade with China shows an unfavorable balance, reflecting a serious disequilibrium. In 1982 Malaysian commodities exported to China totaled only M\$258.1 million, while Chinese commodities imported to us were worth M\$646.6 million in total.

Our main products exported to China are natural rubber, timber and palm oil. China is the largest consumer of our natural rubber, timber and palm oil. China is the largest consumer of our natural rubber, as 51 percent of our natural rubber production is purchased by China.

We hope that Malaysia and China set up a long-term, stable and direct trade formula which can be maintained for a long time to come on the basis of equality and mutual benefit. Naturally, in requesting our counterpart to adopt an equal and mutually beneficial trading method, we should also make a self-analysis about our terms and conditions.

For instance, in requesting that China buy more of our products, we must improve the quality of our products and make their prices more reasonable, otherwise we cannot compete with other foreign products in international markets.

At the same time, our government should also consider slackening its restrictions and let more businessmen make free contacts in the People's Republic of China with the aim of promoting the trade relationship between our two countries.

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CSO: 4205/57

RELEASED EDITOR CORRO REPORTED DEATH THREATS DURING ELECTIONS

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 9 May 84 p 5

[Text] Rommel Corro, an editor-publisher who was ordered released by President Marcos to pursue his candidacy for the Batasan elections representing Zamboanga City, asked the military yesterday for its full responsibility for his safety.

In a letter to Brig Gen Edgardo Alfabeto, commanding general of the 9th PC-INP regional command, Corro cited "persistent intelligence reports on alleged threats to my life."

He said the threats have alarmed members of his family, friends, and supporters "in view of the unusual circumstances surrounding my candidacy in the May 14 polls."

"Although I am under heavy guard, there is nothing that can stop a determined criminal from his mission," Corro said.

He said the threats to his life reportedly come from subversive elements "out to embarrass the government."

Corro, who was detained for alleged subversive activities, has been placed under military custody while campaigning in Zamboanga City.

CSO: 4200/768

COLLANTES EMPHASIZES INFORMATION SERVICES IN FOREIGN MINISTRY

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 9 May 84 p 5

[Article by Apolonio Batalla: "A Ministry's 'New Era'"]

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is starting a "new era" and near the top of the agenda is public information.

A few days ago, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs Manuel Collantes said public information was the area in our foreign relations which our government had badly neglected.

"We are now reaping the bitter fruits of this neglect, as dramatically demonstrated by the problems that we have had to endure during the last eight months," he said. "Because people overseas know so little about our country, they have concluded from a single, well-publicized tragedy at the Manila International Airport that our whole country is unsafe, and travellers and conventioners have stayed away in large numbers. The foreign media show demonstrations on the streets of Manila, and foreign audiences think the entire country is in flames. Because we have failed to convince people of the achievements of our government and the inherent stability of our society, banks and corporations have cut off credit to our businesses, particularly those foreign banks and firms with no independent means of distinguishing media reports from facts."

Collantes gave three reasons behind the weakness in public information of the missions. One is too many officers have neither the training or the inclination for public information work.

Another is most of the ministry personnel and those of the other government agencies concerned do not have a very clear idea of the function, purpose and potential of public information in foreign affairs.

The third is no single government agency has clear responsibility for it.

The ministry is about to change the picture. Recently, the Foreign Service Institute, which is headed by Ambassador Juan V. Saez, a former journalist, opened a course for information officers.

The ministry intends to cause the publication of inexpensive pamphlets on the Philippines for mass distribution abroad. It is thinking of the production by government and private groups of documentary films about the Philippines for showing in schools, before civic groups and on television abroad.

Collantes believed that diplomats and other high government officials should be encouraged to speak before foreign audiences. He noted that all these activities are routinely undertaken by the foreign services of many countries.

The stress on public information is only one of the aspects of the ministry's training program.

Recently the Foreign Service Institute initiated the first meeting on diplomatic education, training and research in Asean countries.

The meeting was held to explore areas of possible cooperation.

At present, there are no schools of foreign service or international relations in Asean countries preparing students for foreign service work.

There was a consensus at the meeting on the need for an "increased Asean consciousness" among the diplomats in the region. It was suggested that this consciousness could be promoted by an exchange of diplomat-students and the inclusion of Asean studies in the curricula.

Asean cooperation in diplomatic education and training is dictated by increasing cooperation in other fields of endeavor. As the members of the association move up the ladder of development the relations will become closer and more complex.

The new importance being given to diplomatic training, including training in public information, is nothing less than an act of foresight. International relations will be more complex than they are today. In the future, the policymakers will need more expertise from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The ministry has to be shaken from its passivity.

CSO: 4200/768

COMBAT-RELATED CIVILIAN DISLOCATIONS RISING

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 11 May 84 p 40

[Text]

The number of people displaced from their homes in the wake of clashes between the military and rebels has increased significantly last year, according to records of the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC).

A total of 134,886 families or 748,193 persons were reportedly displaced in 1983. In 1982, there were 91,524 displaced families or 523,726 persons.

The dislocation of thousands of persons, which started to occur after martial law was declared, has reportedly increased in the past five years, prompting the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to expand its program of assistance

in Mindanao and other provinces affected by armed conflicts. These include Samar, Ifugao, Isabela, Camarines Norte, and Camarines Sur.

From 1972 to the first quarter of 1984, an estimated 1.04 million families or 5.7 million persons were displaced. A total of 2,412 persons were reported killed, 2,724 injured, and 87 missing during the same period. Of the total, the PNRC served 850,072 families or 4.7 million persons.

The estimated number of displaced families increased from 45,803 in 1972 to 108,599 in 1975. In 1976, the number of displaced families declined to 21,148 but began increasing again

until 1978 when 137,174 families were dislocated.

From 43,757 displaced families in 1979, the number has increased to 134,886 in 1983. For the first quarter of 1984, 9,689 families or 50,413 persons were affected. Of this number, nine were reported killed and five injured as a result of armed conflicts.

Director Vic P. Majocon, director of PNRC's disaster preparedness and relief service, said that the Red Cross is preparing itself for a possible outbreak of election violence. One problem foreseen, however, is a limited supply of blood due to the shortage of imported blood packs.

CSO: 4200/768

PHILIPPINES

SMC REPORTS 1 BILLION PESO BORROWING PLAN, NEW DIRECTORS

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 9 May 84 p 8

[Text] San Miguel Corp (SMC) will borrow some P1 billion from the public this year through the flotation of long-term commercial papers and/or bonds to fund its operations and new investments.

This planned borrowing of the country's largest food and beverage conglomerate was approved by its stockholders in their annual meeting yesterday at the Valle Verde Country Club in Pasig, Metro Manila.

In the meeting, the following were elected as directors: Eduardo M. Cojuangco Jr, chairman and chief executive officer; Andres Soriano III, president and chief operating officer; Ernest Kahn, vice chairman; Jose C. Concepcion, secretary; Eduardo J. Soriano, Benigno Toda Jr, Carlos P. Romulo, Roman A. Cruz, Antonio J. Roxas, Antonio Prieto, Edgardo J. Angara, George S.K. Ty, Danilo S. Ursua, Jose Antonio Garcia, and Raul S. Roco.

SMC stockholders also reaffirmed the power of the board of directors to amend and repeal any by-law or adopt new by-laws for the firm; ratified amendment of by-laws and all acts and proceedings of the board of directors since the annual meeting of May 10, 1983.

San Miguel posted sales of P6,460,695,000 last year, an 18 percent increase over the P5,483,800,000 recorded in 1982. Net income was P403,629,000 or 30 percent over the P310,620,000 realized the year before. Cash dividends totalling P158,669,000 were paid in 1983 as compared to P147,880,000 in 1982, while the number of stockholders at year's end stood at 19,807.

Soriano III, who presided the meeting, said that "agriculture and exports are the areas that provide grounds for optimism in the years ahead."

Soriano acknowledged that 1983 was a difficult year for business in general: "In the first semester of the period under review, the economy showed some signs of improvement, following the rebound in the economics of the country's principal trading partners."

To lessen the impact of those difficulties on the company, he said, SMC management intensified efforts to improve market performance by strengthening internal cost controls and reinforcing productivity measures in key areas.

CSO: 4200/768

SURVIVORS DESCRIBE NPA MURDERS IN MUSLIM VILLAGE

Davao City PEOPLE'S DAILY FORUM in English 4 May 84 pp 1, 8

[Article: "A Strategy of Errors--NPA Massacre Unites Tausogs and Christians"]

[Text] It takes a crisis to forge unity.

This was the assessment of farmer Antonio Garcia, 27, as he expressed grief and gloom over the massacre of his seven Tausog neighbors last April 24 by thirty terrorists under Ceferino Salazar, 35, alias Commander Efren of the CPP/NPA's "Front 5."

Some of the Terrorists, witnesses said, were wearing fatigue uniforms but most wore sneakers when they rounded up six Tausog residents in Upper Sirib, Calinan.

Two of the victims were first hogtied and then executed in cold blood despite their repeated pleas for mercy. The seventh victim was killed when the fleeing terrorists chanced upon him north of the massacre site.

Among the victims and one of those hogtied is sixty-year old Lutian Arada whose house was ransacked of everything serviceable. Only the help of their Christian neighbors saved his family from starvation.

The youngest and only son in Lutian's family of six, Jonnie, 17, recalled that they had trusted and even welcomed the terrorists thinking they were Marines.

"We were surprised and began to have doubts when the armed men brusquely ordered us to come down from the house where we had lunch." Terror gripped us when one of the brigands gave an order in Cebuano to shoot anyone who tried to escape, including the small children. They repeatedly announced they were military soldiers.

They then ordered us to surrender our firearms but we had none, and started manhandling my aging father, muttering invectives and accusing the Muslims of being "lazy, illiterate and plundering."

"They dragged my old father away and, twenty minutes later, we heard gunshots."

Another resident, Celistino Lopez, 51, assailed the communists for the "dastardly violation of the Islamic community's human rights" and even challenged the legal sector to pursue the case.

Meanwhile, Jonnie, a polio victim and recently graduated from the elementary grades, stares in grief at the unfinished poultry house his father was repairing that fateful Tuesday.

"My father had hoped it would earn enough to send me through high school, his lifelong ambition."

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FAMILY, 2 AFP SQUADS WIPED OUT IN SEPARATE ENCOUNTERS WITH NPA

AFP Action Kills Civilians

Davao City PEOPLE'S DAILY FORUM in English 1 May 84 pp 1, 3

[Text] Four suspected rebels belonging to the New People's Army (NPA) were slain, and a whole family which included a pregnant woman were massacred while at least two squads of soldiers were wiped out in two separate encounters Friday near the boundary of New Bataan and Nabunturan, Davao del Norte.

Scores of families have evacuated to other areas of safety, and many have escaped to Davao city to relate their ordeals as a result of the armed encounter between the military and the NPA forces.

The first encounter was between the rebels and a group of militiamen (CHDF), while the second was between the NPA forces and the soldiers who tried to pursue the fleeing rebels.

The report said that the four suspected rebels sought sanctuary in a house in Bukal (Mainit), Nabunturan where the whole massacred family were staying after they were pursued by armed forces operatives. Unknown to the rebels, the military were able to track them down and immediately strafed the house rendering all those inside dead, except for the husband who was not able to go home after attending a feast in a nearby sitio.

A pregnant woman residing in the vicinity was fatally hit by stray bullet from the military personnel, the report added.

It was also learned that the beleaguered rebels returned fire at the military in the hope of escaping while the exchange of gunfire was going on. The superiority in firepower and manpower, however, spelled the difference as the rebels were all slain, along with the household members, like birds confined in a cage.

The report also revealed that upon learning of the fate of their companions, the rebels set a trap and engaged the military operatives to another encounter about 4:30 in the morning near the site where the first encounter took place.

All the military personnel involved in the strafing of four rebels which numbered to a strength of two squads were slain after a three and a half hours exchange of gunfire which lasted until eight in the morning of that fateful day.

So far there has not been any report indentifying the fatalities from the rebels, civilian and military sectors.

As of yesterday, many families had already left the sitios of Sta Lucia, Sta Fe and Bavag-bayag in Camanlangan, New Bataan; and Bukal (Mainit) and Matilo, Nabunturan, all in Davao del Norte. Some of the evacuees are housed in Camanlangan baranggay and in the town proper of Nabunturan and New Bataan.

'Indignation' Over Civilian Deaths

Davao City PEOPLE'S DAILY FORUM in English 3 May 84 pp 2, 3

[Article by Vic Sumalinog in the "For the Records" column: "Civilian Massacres and Policemen's Liquidations"]

[Text] Bruising over last Tuesday's local papers our reactions were rather mixed as the meat of the news was only limited to two things--crime and politics.

But what gave us a sudden spurt of indignation, which to some extent overpowered our initial appreciation for the soldiers' annihilation of some four rebels, was the report that a whole family which included a pregnant woman, was not spared by the military men's onslaught just to successfully get their dissident quarries.

Assuming that sanity was then overwhelmed by rage as a result of an earlier encounter between some militiamen and the same group of rebels, discipline dictates that civilians who are either held hostages or within the line of fire during an encounter should, as much as possible, be rescued or spared.

To some extent, operations are even temporarily terminated so that negotiation for the hostages' release or some sort of bargaining would be done just so the lives of innocent people will not be wasted in merciless carnage.

The members of that unfortunate family in sitio Mainit, Nabuntura, Davao could just be another price that the civilians are continuously paying to the escalating genocidal battle between fellow Filipinos in this area of the country.

Even if we have to apply the soldiers' pent up emotions in encounter situations as an excuse for that omission, the unintentional massacre, if we have to tone it down that way, is one operational blunder which they have to account to the people whom the soldiers are supposed to be fighting for.

It is unfortunate the same group of military men were not able to enjoy their kind of laurels and see the day they would have to answer their misdeeds to the people.

If their deaths which followed after they were reportedly trapped in a subsequent ambush done by the companions of the four slain rebels were sort of squaring off with the justice the soldiers have meted on the poor hapless family, perhaps that would bring peace to their souls somewhere in eternity.

What we also consider equally, if not more abominable, is the seemingly orchestrated devilish scheme of liquidating members of the Integrated National Police (INP).

The other day saw another police officer gunned down onboard a public utility vehicle, the sixth victim in a matter of two weeks and the fourth to have died from the assassin's bullets in the same span of time.

Again, some degree of apprehension are playing in the public's mind. For somehow several things could happen as a result of these wanton loss of policemen's lives.

We agree that like any other members of the military aggrupation, the policemen may have their own excesses too, in the performance of their duties as keepers of peace in our community.

The policemen seem for the moment helpless in this affront to their organization. What happened is that they look like they are sitting ducks waiting for their unknown enemies' bullets to put them down lifeless.

There may come a time and we feel it could not be far, when the individual man in police uniform becomes saturated to the breaking point. Here, the tendency is for him to apply his own scheme of self-protection.

And perhaps what he thinks is the best to prevent himself from getting killed is by getting it even with anybody whom he suspects to be out to take his life.

Or that the police organization, unable to protect itself from the enemies of the public, would earn the scorn of the people for being helpless against terrorist activities being perpetrated on themselves.

The tense situation during the May 1 celebration of Labor Day in Davao City was aggravated by the incessant brownouts of power from the Davao Light and Power Company.

After inquiries made we were told that the brownouts actually were due to some faults in the National Power Corporation lines between the Agus II power grid and Kibawe in Bukidnon.

What is unfortunate however, is that on the part of the power supplier which is the NPC, it has not made any attempt to advise the Davao Light to take emergency measures to ensure continuity of power services.

On the other hand, we were also intrigued why the local power firm, despite its having monitored the source of the fault, it hasn't made initiatives to contact the power supplier whether or not the situation would warrant resorting to utilization of standby generators.

Of course we are very much aware that Davao Light's concern is still primarily the continuity of industry's operation in Davao City and suburbs. But such initiative either by the franchise holder and the NPC could have avoided the unnecessary inconvenience of major power consumers.

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BRIEFS

COOKING OIL PRICES QUADRUPLE--Remember when prices of Middle East oil quadrupled in the early 1970s and brought proud Western nations to their knees? Since January 1983, the price of coconut oil, better known as cooking oil, has more than quadrupled also, from P74 per 17-kilo can (the kerosene can) to P350. Reports indicate that coconut oil manufacturers, who have doubled their price since December 1983, belong to the sector which has the greatest faith in reports about the devaluation of the peso after the election. Even at P350 a can, they have cut down on deliveries. To institutional buyers such as hotels and restaurants, some manufacturers have cut off deliveries completely, while others limit deliveries to 30 to 50 cans. They claim officially that they have run out of stock. But their salesmen say that normal sales would resume after the elections on Monday. There are only two types of cooking oil in the market. The other is corn oil, which housewives rarely use, because it has always been expensive. A 17-kilo can of corn oil costs P569. From P74 a can in January 1983, it took seven months for coconut oil to make a 100 percent leap, to P147.50 at the start of August. By December, it was at the P200 mark. Since last February towards the end of April the price hovered at P290. In the first week of May, it went up to P325, at which time the manufacturers began holding back deliveries. [Article by Brenda P. Tuazon] [Text] [Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 10 May 84 pp 1, 12]

NPA RAIDS COJUANGCO FARM--Some P16 million worth of farm equipment of Prosperidad Agricultural Corp, a firm reportedly headed by Ambassador Eduardo Cojuangco, were burned by armed men believed to be from the New People's Army, in Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur Tuesday. Among those burned were three farm tractors, one stake truck, two bulldozers, one grader, 15 chain saws and 15 motorcycles. [Text] [Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 11 May 84 p 1]

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MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

GENERAL URGES IMPROVEMENT IN TRAINING IN 1984

Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 2 Apr 84 p 2

[Article by Major General Nguyen The Bon: "Some Matters That Must Be Grasped in the 1984 Training Work"]

[Text] Last year the units throughout the army made many all-out efforts in training to improve the quality of the combat readiness of the people's armed forces.

Fully understanding the basic contents of the party line in the new phase of the revolution, and strictly carrying out the orders of the Ministry of National Defense regarding the military missions and the directive of the Chief of the General Staff regarding combat training, the military regions, corps, armed forces branches, combat arms, etc., fulfilled their military training missions well and many units attained outstanding accomplishments. In guiding and organizing implementation, the training contents and methods of training in accordance with the new requirements began to be studied and effectively applied. The regular army forces, the reserve forces, the local armed forces, the colleges, the vocational middle schools, and the general schools were trained in correct accordance with programs and plans.

However, there were still a number of deficiencies and weaknesses which limited the improvement of training quality, such as the management of troop strength, and the training times, contents, and programs not yet being tight; the ability of the basic-level cadres was still limited, and the quality of small unit training was not high; and although there was a transformation in the execution of orders and observance of discipline on the part of the troops, it was still slow and not uniform. Therefore, when considering the training situation it is necessary to correctly evaluate the results that have been attained and clearly determine the reasons, clearly assign responsibility, and seek specific measures for developing the good points and overcoming the deficiencies and weaknesses so that good results can be attained in the 1984 training year.

With regard to the 1984 training missions, on the basis of firmly grasping the special characteristics of its situation and direction it is necessary to concentrate efforts on resolving well the following principal problems:

-- Strengthening the sense of responsibility and command and management ability of the unit cadres, and paying attention to political education and military training in the basic-level units.

-- Creating professional practices and work styles, forging discipline, and obeying the orders and regulations of the army and the laws of the state.

Paying attention to training and improving the operational level of the local armed forces and the mobilized reserve forces, and doing a good job of carrying out national defense education and universal military training in order to do a good job of preparing youths for military service.

-- Training the troops so that they can firmly grasp the technical and tactical capabilities of the equipment in the TO & E and do a good job of using, managing, and maintaining them, and develop high effectiveness in combat.

-- Raising the level of command and organ cadres at the regimental, brigade, and division level regarding the art of combat command, the use and management of weapons and technical equipment, grasping the contents and methods of staff work and of commanding and managing troops, and training organization and methods, in order to strengthen the lower echelon and train the units.

As regards combat training in the detachments, there are especially important problems with which the military commanders and political cadres must be continually concerned. As we all know, of the three principal factors -- weapons and technical equipment, the state of political morale, and the level of military ability -- two are directly related to the enlisted man: the combat level and political, psychological, and physical quality. Only soldiers who meet those qualifications, and only if those qualifications are continually raised, will it be possible to use the various kinds of modern technical equipment and develop their effectiveness in combat.

At present, the mission of political education and military training in the detachments demand that they be carried out comprehensively, with regard to both the requirement of cultivating the political quality, will, combat level, morale, physical condition, etc., of all enlisted men and detachment, and on that basis cultivating the will to win, the combat art, and willingness to endure and overcome all challenges, hardships, difficulties, and complications in order to win victory in combat. The formation precious qualities for the soldiers and detachments is a process of concentrating on the resolution of many aspects and links, by means of a political education and military training program that extends throughout the service time of all military personnel.

In the military training program of the detachments there are many subjects, topics, and contents, but tactical training, technical training, and marksmanship have very high requirements.

No matter what kind of war breaks out, no matter on what scale, and no matter what facilities are used or what the level of fighting is, there is still a basis for achieving victory for the campaign. In other words, the objectives of the campaign are reached by combat.

Thus it is clear that no matter what the scale of the war and no matter how much the campaign art has developed, tactics, including the theory and practice of preparing and carrying out combat by detachments, also plays an important

role in achieving victory. Therefore, it is necessary to pay all-out attention to improving the quality of tactical training.

Clearly realizing the importance of tactics, during the past several years the Ministry, the military regions, the corps, the armed forces branches, the combat arms, etc., have held many detachment tactics training classes for command cadres and training organs of units, and instructors of schools throughout the army. After each such training session the quality of tactical training in the detachments was further improved and has made clear progress. After an actual inspection combat by units at the front and in the course of the actual training of the detachments and the isolating of experiences of previous training classes, this year separate tactical training classes will be organized for each category and the unification of the contents and organization methods of technical training throughout the army. In order to prepare for the good fulfillment of that task, the Ministry assigned to a number of organs, institutes and schools the mission of preparing model materials and building model classrooms and drill fields to serve as the basis for unifying basic training throughout the army.

However, the tactical level cannot be high if the soldiers do not fully understand and skilfully use their weapons and technical facilities. In that relationship, we clearly realize the importance of training in weapons firing and artillery firing, and training in the other techniques.

We all understand that the firepower of all types of weapons of small units or large units are facilities for waging a battle or a campaign. If firepower is not used to fight the enemy and annihilate or deplete their manpower or war facilities it will not be possible to take the offensive, nor take the defensive. Furthermore, due to the requirements of the mission of fighting to defend the homeland, we must annihilate the objectives immediately, from the very first rounds and salvos, in order to defeat the enemy as soon as they transgress upon the zone defended by the unit. That is a very great requirement. In order to fulfill those requirements there is no other way than to train the troops to fire accurately and skilfully, both individual weapons and crew-served weapons.

In addition to understanding and being expert in tactics and marksmanship it is necessary to train the men to grasp, expertly use, and develop the effectiveness of the weapons and technical equipment in the unit's TO & E, both modern and primitive weapons and technical facilities.

The training of members of a unit is a process of synthesizing military and political knowledge and actual skill. Those things cannot be attained immediately. It is necessary to create a solid corps of cadres and training instructors. Training must be truly basic, comprehensive, and systematic. It is necessary to study and find the most appropriate methods for each category and attain the highest training effectiveness. It is necessary to meet the essential requirements regarding material bases, weapons, technical equipment, instructional materials, class rooms, training fields, etc. The soldiers' training must be basic, comprehensive, systematic, and unified, theory must be combined with practice, and training must be appropriate to the actual requirements of combat. These are the premises which determine a high degree of combat readiness and victorious combat by the unit.

With regard to all those matters, the unit commanders have the direct responsibility, for they are assigned responsibility for fully preparing all military personnel under their authority before they enter battle, and leading them into battle with all necessary factors for winning victory. That reflects the requirement of the unit commander having military, political, and scientific-technical knowledge that corresponds to their functions, as well as good physical conditioning. They must always be exemplary and know how to encourage the unit to achieve merit in combat, and continually improve and perfect their education and training methods in order to fulfill the missions assigned them.

The important position and heavy responsibility of the unit commanders pose for the echelons the requirement of paying all-out attention to cultivating them. Furthermore, the unit commanders themselves must positively and actively find as much time as possible to research and study in order to improve their scientific-technical knowledge, their military skills, their professional specialization, and their physical condition. Especially, they must improve their ability to organize, manage, and coordinate the unit and manage its weapons and technical equipment in accordance with the new requirements of development and combat readiness. The actual situation of development in the units always proves that if the cadres are skilled the unit will be skilled, and if the cadres are exemplary in observing discipline the troops under their command will maintain strict discipline.

The 1984 combat training mission is very difficult and urgent. If we know how to concentrate on doing a good job of resolving those basic problems it is certain that we will transform the situation, improve the quality of training, and increase the fighting strength and combat readiness of the people's armed forces.

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MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

EDITORIAL DEALS WITH NEED FOR ADEQUATE TRAINING MATERIALS

Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 21 Mar 84 pp 1, 4

[Editorial: "Insuring Availability of Training Materials"]

[Text] Insuring the availability of training materials is a highly important factor contributing to the successful accomplishment of the training task. Even when the training theme has been grasped, when a realistic and correct training plan has been drawn up and when skilled training cadres are present, a shortage of the required material means will exert a great influence on the quality of training.

Strict execution of the order on military training in 1984, all units in the entire army have recently made initial efforts to prepare material bases for training. However, do to the fact that the training need has been urgent and that the technical and tactical themes have been developed in many respects involving many kinds and a great quantity and higher quality of training materials, the task of insuring the availability of these materials has failed to meet the demand from many points of view.

Training materials are of many kinds including drill grounds, shooting ranges, vehicles, machines, munitions, fuel, documents, maps, prototypes, drawings, photographs, targets, blackboards, paper, ink, pens, chalks, etc.. To ensure the availability of training materials in a satisfactory manner, it is necessary to grasp the theme, duration and method of training so as to formulate an adequate and positive preparatory plan.

Based on the training theme, duration and method, all organs, schools, branches and armed of service and all units must organize the compilation of documents, produce study instruments exactly on schedule, promote in time the beginning of training in basic units and prevent circumstances when the high echelon sends study documents and prototypes to units only after the latter have completed the study. Drill grounds and shooting ranges must

satisfactorily meet the requirements of technical and tactical training and efforts must be made to insure that they are closest to combat realities and offer absolute safety. Drill grounds must not only correspond to the training subject but also suit the training method; consequently, besides organizing various types of drill grounds to serve different purposes, one must have large, small, complex, sectional and integrated drill grounds in order to deploy many people for training, to lengthen the training period and to increase the number of drills for each subject matter.

Many agencies and organs at different levels have the duty to prepare the training materials and must fulfill it satisfactorily according to the work assignment and decentralization method. Instead of entrusting this task entirely as in the nonspecific contracting system, the high-echelon commanding organ must pay attention to satisfactorily meeting the low echelon's need for training materials. On the other hand, [basic] units must neither rely on budget appropriations nor wait for the high level's decision but must bring into play creative spirit of all cadres and soldiers, try to win the local assistance and fully use on-the-spot raw materials and supplies to promptly solve the problem of obtaining materials for training. Many units have cleverly employed a large number of combatants having a professional skill and cultural knowledge to produce an additional amount of learning tools, to copy more documents and to draw more pictures to better serve training. Some units have held exhibitions and competitions to select the best models of learning tools, to disseminate experiences and to launch a movement among all units to produce by themselves various types of learning tools according to uniform models.

The task of making training materials available is not only important at the beginning of the training period but must also be attentively continued throughout a training year. It is necessary to organize the drawing of experiences at the appropriate time, ceaselessly to complement and perfect study documents and tools and drill grounds and positively to contribute to heightening the quality of teaching and learning.

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MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

MEASURES TO IMPROVE FOOD SUPPLY TO ARMY UNITS TAKEN

Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 21 Mar 84 p 3

[Article by Tran Dinh Ba: "How Did Haiphong Insure Supply of Adequate Food for Troops?"]

[Text] Besides catering for tens of thousands of cadres, manual and office workers and people in the urban areas of the city, each month the Haiphong Agricultural Products and Food Corporation has had to insure food supply to more than 100 army unit centers many of which consume a large quantity of food and include the Navy Command, the Military Region 3 Headquarters and so forth. Some of these centers require not a large amount but a high quality of food.

Despite innumerable difficulties caused by the large extent of supply recipients, the great amount of supplies and the instability of sources of goods but under the close guidance exercised by the Municipal Party and People's Committees and the Commercial Service, the Haiphong Agricultural Products and Food Corporation has for many years (especially in 1983) insured an adequate supply of commodities according to the fixed standards and quantities to all army units falling within its scope of servicing activities.

So what has Haiphong done and how has it managed to fulfill this mission satisfactorily?

Full Knowledge of Unit Centers' Needs and Implementation of Flexible Measures

To have an idea of the great efforts exerted by the commercial sector and those made directly by the Haiphong Agricultural Products and Food Corporation to supply food to army units every year, let us consider some figures: The yearly meat quota to be supplied by Haiphong to army units is 1,200 tons plus 300 tons of fish and 400 tons of sugar.

By the end of each year in the recent past, the Haiphong Agricultural Products and Food Corporation has usually held a conference of special customers, namely the army unit centers, and this habit has nearly become a rule. At each such conference, the corporation director seriously reviewed the service rendered to the army during the year and, at the same time, asked the units, in their capacity as customers, to express specific views about the servicing method and the quantities and quality of the food supplied; he also made proposals to the merchandise receiving units and informed them of any increase or decrease in the quantities of goods following changes and developments in these units.

Through these customers' conferences, the Agricultural Products and Food Corporation became aware of its own shortcomings and could make a relatively accurate estimate of the amount of food to be supplied to army units in the coming year so as to effectively draw up an apportionment plan.

--I asked the comrades in the corporation about the difficulties they usually met with in supplying food to the army.

Nguyen Quang Minh, director of the Haiphong Agricultural Products and Food Corporation, replied:

--Speaking of the difficulties inherent in the supply of food, in general, and in the supply of food to the army, in particular, not only we but perhaps all the sister corporations throughout the country have met with them. The constant and greatest difficulty is the fact that we have never been able to take hold of proportional sources of goods--in other words, never been able to acquire a sufficient amount of goods to distribute proportionately according to the plan. Speaking of pork alone, we need about 3,500 tons each year but all the urban and rural precincts and districts and all the state-operated cattle breeding units have only about 3,000 tons per year to meet the local demand. In addition to the quantities shortage, hogs can only be purchased primarily in due season while it is necessary to supply pork regularly. We have never let army units suffer from shortage though last year we owed cadres and manual and office workers about 100 tons.

--Under such difficult circumstances, how has the corporation managed to supply enough food to the troops?

Vu Ngoc Giao, deputy director of the corporation in charge of directing the troops' supply, told me:

--The Haiphong Municipal Party and People's Committees have frequently reminded us that "the cadres and people of Haiphong

may receive a short or delayed supply of their monthly or quarterly food rations but it is forbidden to allot an insufficient quantity to any army unit stationed in Haiphong and entitled to a food quota." In pursuance of this directive of the Municipal Party Committee, our corporation has set up two shops, one in the Lac Vien Market and another in An Duong, with the special duty to deliver supplies to army units. Everyday these shops add up the allotments of different kinds of foods (mainly pork) mentioned in the goods purchase books of all army unit centers and then draw up a slaughter plan. Concerning units which need a large supply of food or have been mobilized to carry out economic construction in areas far from the city, it is necessary to make it convenient for them to travel and to ensure that soldiers always have enough meat at their daily meals; for this reason, we have implemented the system of supplying them with 60 percent of their quarterly need for on-the-hoof hogs. In this manner, these army units can save automobile gasoline, reduce the traveling trouble and, at the same time, take the initiative in using their source of food, wherever conditions are favorable, they may fatten the hogs and increase their weight, thus procuring an additional amount of food to improve the troops' meals.

To ascertain the veracity of the statements of the leading comrades in the Haiphong Agricultural Products and Food Corporation, I recently paid a visit to some army units of Military Region 3 engaged in economic construction and scattered in a large area from Quang Ninh through Pna Lai, Gia Luong and Thuan Thanh (Ha Bac) to Dinh Vu Island (Haiphong); these units belong to the 666th and 148th Regiments of Group B30--a unit with outstanding economic achievements which made a profit of over 6 million dong in 1983. The comrades in these units' rear service told me that beside the meat quota fully supplied by the Haiphong Agricultural Products and Food Corporation, they have been supplied with soybeans as a substitute for fish with a 1 to 1 ratio, that they have used 1 kg of soybeans to make 2 kgs of soy cake on the average and that they have thus obtained a constant source of soybean residue to fatten hogs and increase their weight. Over the past year, Group B30 has been supplied by the Haiphong Agricultural Products and Food Corporation with more than 10 tons of soybeans in lieu of fish.

If we take into consideration the fact that to procure 1 kg of soybeans for sale to the troops at the price of 1.1 dong a kilogram, the comrades at the Haiphong Agricultural Products and Food Corporation had to set up purchase teams in the southern

provinces to buy this item at the price of 25 dong a kilogram and had to transport it by sea from a distance of nearly 1,500 kms, we will realize the special attention given to the armed forces by the Municipal Party and People's Committees and the Commercial Service of Haiphong.

An Insolvable Difficulty

Meat, fish and sugar are some of the many food products to be supplied in fixed quantities to the army by the Agricultural Products and Food Corporation. While meat and sugar have been supplied regularly and exactly in the fixed quantities, fish has been supplied irregularly and almost no unit center has ever received enough of it. Why so? And what efforts have been made by the Agricultural Products and Food Corporation to solve this difficulty?

After making inquiries about the Agricultural Products and Food Corporation and many army unit centers, we have found out the following causes:

Though Haiphong has a large harbor which serves as a gathering point for the largest fishing flotillas of North Vietnam, almost all the seafish brought into the port everyday to meet the domestic consumption need is reserved for Hanoi so that Haiphong is excluded from the regular priority list. The resulting situation which has arisen frequently is that all the monthly and even quarterly fish rations of cadres, manual and office workers and army men are often accumulated for distribution only within the port city area usually at a time when fishing boats are rushing back to the port in large numbers, when refrigerating depots have been filled up and when the central level's demand has been satisfied.

Since this state of affairs has happened almost throughout the year and for many years already, army units which are stationed in remote areas do not know when fish is available so that they may come [to the city] and take it while those stationed in nearby localities dare not receive their fish rations in full for fear that they may not be able to consume at a time all the accumulated quantity.

Over the past few years, the Agricultural Products and Food Corporation has taken flexible measures such as drying up fish, replacing fish with soybeans and fish sauce and reserving these two items for the remote army units. As a result, certain units have received their fish quotas under the form of other exchange commodities.

The Haiphong Agriculture Products and Food Corporation would suggest that all the army unit centers appoint a representative agency beside the corporation so that the latter may promptly deliver fish to the army whenever large quantities of this commodity become available and that this representative agency has the duty to advise remote army units to come and take their fish quotas.

This proposal reflects the sense of responsibility of the Haiphong Agricultural Products and Food Corporation and is worth considering by all army units which should join forces to find a way to solve the fish supply problem more effectively.

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MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

MISUSE OF SOLDIER'S LEAVE BY UNIT COMMANDER DEPLORED

Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 27 Mar 84 p 3

/Article by Ho Si: "Private Minh 'Goes on Leave'"

/Text/ During a trip from Ha Giang to Hanoi, I had the opportunity to make acquaintance with private Minh (Group N22), a native of Son Duong, Ha Tuyen Province. This young soldier was given a 1-month leave not because he had recently scored some outstanding achievement in carrying out his task or in undergoing training (as specified in the regulations) but just "incidentally" to render a service to battalion commander H by brining 40 kgs of nitrogenous fertilizer and 4 (dissembled portable) chairs to his house in Ly Nhan, Ha Nam Ninh Province.

Minh was allowed to take leave when his unit was in a combat-ready state. More worrisome was the fact that he was a tribesman who had never traveled a long distance and never visited both Hanoi and Ha Nam Ninh.

I could not imagine how this soldier, accompanied by such a cumbersome baggage, would manage to reach the house of battalion commander H and "fulfill the mission" entrusted by him.

Allowing a combatant to go on leave in an unprincipled manner while his unit is busy carrying out its mission and taking advantage of the combatant's leave of absence to "manage" to make a personal profit is not yet a widespread habit but is neither a rare practice in a number of basic units at the present time. The case will be more serious if the traveler who sets out to "kill two birds with one stone" is not familiar with the itinerary, vehicles, trains, etc. Did battalion commander H foresee the emergencies which could befall the soldier under his command?

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MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

GOOD FULFILMENT OF 1984 TRAINING MISSION URGED

Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 2 Apr 84 pp 1, 4

[Article: "Victoriously Fulfill the 1984 Military Training Missions"]

[Text] Military training is a permanent central task of the mission of constructing the army, and is a key link in increasing the fighting strength of the people's armed forces. In advancing to a conventional, modern status we must pay even more attention to military training. The quality of military training is an important yardstick for measuring our army's advance to a conventional, modern status an army cannot have a high conventional-modern level if it is not trained militarily. For that reason, every year our army's military training mission has new contents and new requirements to ensure that it becomes increasingly conventional and modern.

The quality of training must be the combined result of the efforts in all regards by all cadres and men of all echelons and sectors. First of all, the plan drafting and plan management phases are extremely important. The commanders at all levels must personally study the orders and directives of the upper echelon in order to draft programs and plans. Plan drafting and plan management manifest in a concrete manner the spirit of strictly carrying out orders on the part of cadres commanding units and organs, and manifest the ability of command cadres at all levels to carry out orders. The programs and plans must clearly manifest strictness in observing the stipulated times and progress, and must ensure such quality requirements as the level of all-round, systematic and skilful combat in all terrain, in all weather, and day and night. Only if with a spirit of resolutely and fully carrying out all orders and determination to overcome difficulties and the creativity of the cadres and men can plan management and implementation be well maintained and attain the quality norms and requirements that have been set forth.

The quality of training is also dependent to a very great extent on the corps of command cadres directly training the small detachments and enlisted men. Only if the technical and tactical levels of the enlisted men and small detachments are expert can the following training phases have a basis for attaining high quality. Therefore, it is necessary to pay much attention to training the training cadres. All cadres engaged directly in training must attend training classes. However, study alone is insufficient. The training process must also be a process of gaining experience and further supplementing the contents and methods. The cadres commanding units and organs must, by

means organizing the close monitoring of training classes and grasping the levels of cadres under their command, draft plans to correct the weaknesses of each individual and help all cadres observe the principles of the upper echelon teaching the lower echelon and the commanders teaching the units.

Combat training is a central mission of the units of the people's armed forces. The commanders must concentrate on training and truly organize the management and coordination of the training process. All echelons must implement the system of the commanders teaching the units and the upper echelon teaching the lower echelon, and must prepare training materials, directly participate in instruction, and serve as a model for the lower echelon.

The commanders must be present on the training fields, directly train the troops, resolutely adhere to the training regulations and times, and set a good example for the cadres and men under them. Only by directly organizing and managing training can the commanders have conditions for rapidly improving their ability to command and manage troops and manage the training contents and plans, and only then can there be conditions for closely inspecting, and thoroughly understanding the thought and work style of, the troops, and promptly motivate, organize, and compel the lower echelon and the unit to strictly obey the training orders, directives, and plans that are set forth.

Fully understanding the principal missions, directions, and requirements of training in 1984, with a spirit of bringing into play the advantages in order to resolutely overcome the difficulties, all units must endeavor to attain high training quality and completely fulfill the mission and requirement of defending the socialist homeland in the new phase and advance our army, gradually and stably, to a conventional, modern status.

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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, TRADE AND AID

INFLUENCE OF DIEN BIEN PHU ON U.S. STRATEGY NOTED

Hanoi NGHIEN CUU LICH SU in Vietnamese No 1, Jan 84 pp 75-79

[Article by Nhuan Vu: "The 'Dien Bien Phu Imprint' on U.S. Military Strategy"]

[Text] The battle of Dien Bien Phu took place when General Eisenhower was the U.S. President and was implementing the military strategy of "massive retaliation."

When drafting a certain military strategy the U.S. strategists usually make the capabilities of the principal weapons at their disposal the basis of calculations.

During the first years of the 1950's, although the U.S. had lost its monopoly in nuclear weapons it still had a superiority in such weapons with regard to both launching facilities and the number and quality of nuclear warheads and bombs. During that period the U.S. had the strongest strategic air force in the world. It consisted of B29 strategic bombers and a number of the first B52 "Superfortresses," which were armed with nuclear bombs. That was the terrible "massive retaliation" tool the U.S. regarded as a weapon to "stop and annihilate communism in the world."

At that time the war objectives with which the U.S. was most concerned were the Soviet Union and China. It may be said that before it became evident that the units of the French expeditionary army at Dien Bien Phu could be annihilated the U.S. still regarded the national liberation movement lightly. The U.S. regarded the Korean war as a clash between the U.S. and China by means of a conventional war with a clear front. In the process of that war, from the actions on the battlefield to the diplomatic activities, Beijing often sent secret signals to the U.S. regarding the possibility of some sort of negotiations between the two sides.

Against that strategic background, when the French government requested the U.S. government to take a number of emergency actions to save the French colonial units at Dien Bien Phu from the specter of annihilation the ruling circles in Washington appeared to be perplexed and hesitant. There even occurred a fierce debate with the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff. For the first time there was disagreement between the U.S. admirals and generals regarding the questions of whether or not the U.S. should intervene in Indochina and in what way it should intervene. Later it was learned that on 25 March 1954 there

1954. [This is Washington a meeting between the French General Ely and the U.S. Admiral Radford, Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff. Radford proposed that [Ely] allow U.S. heavy bombers based in the Philippines to drop bombs around Dien Bien Phu. After requesting the opinion of General Saverre and receiving his agreement on 4 April 1954 the French government officially requested the U.S. government to act along those lines. The Pentagon completed the drafting of the "Tautour" plan in accordance with which the U.S. Air Force would use 34 B-29 Superfortresses stationed on Okinawa and at Clark Field in the Philippines to drop about 5,400 tons of bombs on our army's position all over the Dien Bien Phu area. When Dallas, the U.S. Secretary of State, consulted them, the Republicans and Democratic leaders in Congress set conditions: the U.S. could get only in the framework of joint action by an alliance made up of anti-communist countries in Southeast Asia and the British Commonwealth. At the same time, everyone knew that the English government was not enthusiastic towards playing the role of sticking its hand into the fire to pick out a roasted chestnut for someone else to eat, so the diplomatic dispatch giving the official response of the U.S. government, which was sent to the French government on 4 January 1954, was along those lines, i.e. the U.S. wanted to delay its intervention in order to "wait and see" how the situation at Dien Bien Phu developed. However, the faction advocating intervention, led by Radford and supported by Nixon, Vice President in the Eisenhower administration, continued to make active preparations to carry out the "Tautour" plan. Two U.S. Air Force generals, Partridge and Caldwell, went to Saigon and General Caldwell personally observed the Dien Bien Phu battlefield from the air. At the same time, the faction opposing the "Tautour" plan, headed by Army General Ridgway, was also very active. Ridgway believed that according to the experience of the Korean War the effectiveness of B-29 bombers in attacking the enemy's lines of communication was very limited. He was supported by General Gavin, Chief of Operations of the U.S. Army Chief of Staff. Gavin's position was that the "Tautour" plan would lead to the prospect of sending U.S. ground forces to the Indochina battlefield before preparations had been made to wage that type of war. President Eisenhower approved the opinion of Ridgway and Gavin and on 19 April 1954 ordered the abandonment of the "Tautour" plan. In actuality, Western military circles also admit that at that time, even bombing by B-29's would not have had any notable effect, and it is certain that they could have not have saved the French Army units under the command of De Castries, whose fate had been determined many weeks previously.

The French troops at Dien Bien Phu surrendered. That was truly a heavy blow aimed against French colonialism and shattered a key link, which led to the shattering of the entire chain. France's defeat was also a defeat for the U.S., which supported French colonialism. At that point the U.S. strategists suddenly woke when they began to realize its profound significance, which they had thought was only regional and indirect as far as the U.S. was concerned. While the "containment" strategy of Truman and the "massive retaliation" strategy were aimed at the Soviet Union, China, and communism, the blow struck against the U.S. global counterrevolutionary strategy and the U.S. military strategy arose from the national liberation movement in a former colonial country that was led by a communist party and was a country with an average population and area. Our army arose from people's war and did not yet have modern weapons and equipment, while the U.S. military forces serving as the hard core of the U.S. military strategy were essentially the strategic nuclear

forces, so in the event that they would have to "urgently put out a fire," such as at Dien Bien Phu, the U.S. ruling circles could not use their trump card and concluded that the most appropriate card, the ordinary fire-fighting forces, had not yet been prepared. Indeed, in theory as well as in the strategic U.S. military plan there was a vital crack and Dien Bien Phu was like a sharp knife point that was plunged in and made that crack deeper.

The Truman-Eisenhower period was a period in which McCarthyism was flourishing all over the United States, and was a period in which the U.S. imperialists were giving rise to the "cold war" against the Soviet Union and world communism. It may be said that the U.S. imperialists, who at first had a monopoly and then had superiority with regard to nuclear weapons, hoped to stop and annihilate communism by means of atomic bombs. Within the framework of the "massive retaliation" military strategy the Truman and Eisenhower administrations gave priority to the air force and navy and stressed the development of the triad of U.S. strategic nuclear weapons, such as intercontinental missiles, strategic bombers, and nuclear submarines armed with strategic missiles. The U.S. ground forces were junior partners. The various kinds of ground forces weapons developed more slowly. The "fire brigade" forces had not yet been formed. The strategic concern of Washington from the mid-1940's to the mid-1950's was to concentrate on opposing the two principal adversaries: the Soviet Union and China. As for countering the national liberation movement, the U.S. delegated that task to the lesser imperialist countries and played the role of standing behind them, pulling wires, and providing them assistance and aid. Furthermore, the U.S. imperialists thought that that was a positive, inexpensive way for the U.S. to gradually replace the junior imperialist nations in their old colonies, by means of the political, economic, and military penetration of those fat new territories. U.S. neocolonialism was in the process of formation, with forms, contents, and methods that had not yet been tested.

The glorious victory of the Vietnamese troops and people at Dien Bien Phu both startled and confused the U.S. strategists. The previous strategic calculations of the U.S. were upset. After Dien Bien Phu and the 1954 Geneva Conference half of Vietnam was liberated. That meant that part of it had been separated from the orbit of the imperialist-capitalist system to become a component part of the socialist system. While the U.S. was concentrating its efforts on activities against the Soviet Union and the socialist system there had emerged from the national liberation movement new socialist countries, independent, nationalist countries which leaned toward socialism or neutralist countries. Dien Bien Phu had become a kangaroo punch or, as the English strategists would say, "an indirect contiguous" blow against the U.S. counterrevolutionary global strategy and the U.S. military strategy. It was not that prior to Dien Bien Phu, the authors of the "massive retaliation" strategy had not paid attention to the regions with many old colonies, especially Southeast Asia. As early as 12 February 1950 the NEW YORK TIMES wrote, "Indochina is the prize of a big game....Even during the Second World War Indochina earned an annual profit of about \$300 million." At the U.S. Governors' Conference at Seattle, President Eisenhower on 8 April 1953 announced, "Let us imagine that we would lose Indochina....Tin and wolfram, precious minerals, would no longer be imported from those countriesThus when the U.S. votes to approve the sum of \$400 million dollars to assist in

that war we will not vote for a program of no value. We will vote for the course of preventing the occurrence of events that could have terrible consequences for the U.S."

According to Western calculations, in 1954 U.S. aid for the French colonialists amounted to a total of about \$2 billion. Only then did the Washington ruling circles regard the revolution in the three Indochinese countries as a threat to their sources of raw materials, as a market for the consumption of goods, and as a zone of U.S. investment on that peninsula as well as in the entire Southeast Asian region. Still heavily dominated by the "massive retaliation" strategy, Washington did not yet deeply and fully understand that the consequences of the French defeat at Dien Bien Phu would lead to the reversal of the U.S. strategic position in Southeast Asia, which was part of the U.S. global strategic position. Clearly, once half of Vietnam had been completely liberated as a result of Dien Bien Phu, the U.S. Navy was no longer free to enter the Gulf of Tonkin, whereas in the past U.S. warships could go as far as the Bay of Ha Long and territorial waters of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. Thus the U.S. Navy lost its absolute control of the South China Sea for the first time since the end of the Second World War. Furthermore, that tardy awareness also resulted from the fact that for many years the U.S. ruling circles underestimated the capabilities of the anti-French resistance war of the Vietnamese revolution. In fact, history has proved that that subjectivism of the U.S. lasted until 30 April 1975.

Returning to the time of Dien Bien Phu, that battle was a blow against the doctrines of "the Soviet Union and communism are the source of the threat to U.S. interests, "a major war to ensure the right of the U.S. to be the international gendarme: nuclear war," "absolute weapons of the U.S.: nuclear weapons," and "a terrible, decisive fighting method of the U.S.: massive retaliation." The impotence of the U.S. over Dien Bien Phu signified the bankruptcy of those doctrines and inevitably resulted in the bankruptcy of the "massive retaliation" strategy, a structure built on the foundation of those war doctrines.

Dien Bien Phu became a bitter, painful strategic surprise for the U.S., especially a surprise regarding the capability of adversaries which the U.S. had only regarded as regional insurgency forces and guerrilla forces with no modern weapons. The U.S. was surprised by the influence and effect of the defeat of a U.S. ally in an old colony, in a tropical, remote tropical region tens of thousands of kilometers away with regard to the strategic position and global strategic deployment of the U.S., and finally with regard to the official U.S. military strategy. In a broader sense, it was a blow against the global counterrevolutionary strategy of the U.S., not only in the military sphere but also in the political and economic spheres. Dien Bien Phu was like a miraculous catalyst which stimulated the development of the national liberation movement in the new nations of the world -- old-style colonial dominoes in many different regions of the world -- to create new transformations in the balance of forces between the imperialist and international reactionary forces and the revolutionary, progressive forces on a global scale. Those political and military changes threatened the economic interests of the U.S. with regard to investment, raw materials, and markets in the world and especially in Southeast Asia. If Dien Bien Phu signified the

inevitable collapse of the old-style colonialism, that military event also signified that U.S. neocolonialism which would arise on the wreckage of the old-style colonialism was only a diseased freak and could not hold back the massive current of the national liberation, national independence movement in the world.

Truly, with Dien Bien Phu the Washington ruling circles had to painfully acquiesce. According to the image brought up by the U.S. press, the U.S. nuclear "sledgehammer" was incapable of killing the war mosquitos that arose, while the sticks that had beaten the heads of the French colonialists were beating the heads of the U.S. imperialists.

The crisis of the "massive retaliation" strategy lasted throughout the final years of the 1950's. It was truly ironic and farcical for U.S. strategists when they could not use the Dien Bien Phu lesson as a torch to light the way out of the tunnel of strategic stalemate that Dien Bien Phu had placed them in. That was also a method which the U.S. theoretical military strategist General Taylor used when he wrote the book "An Uncertain Trumpet," which outlined the main direction for the Kennedy administration to create a new strategy called "flexible response" to replace the "massive retaliation" strategy, which had been tossed into the dustbin of history by Dien Bien Phu.

Taylor admitted that Vietnam, and specifically Dien Bien Phu, had occurred not only because of the conflict between the French expeditionary army and Vietnamese soldiers and people struggling for the independence of their homeland, but was also a test of strength between imperialism, led by the U.S., and the world national liberation movement, in which the people of Vietnam, Laos, and Kampuchea were assault forces which manned the front line in the fight against colonialism. The results of that test of strength were not limited to the sphere of Vietnam and the Indochinese Peninsula, but had a profound effect on the balance of forces between the imperialist and international reactionary force on one side and the forces of revolution and progress on the other side. Taylor fiercely criticized the U.S. administrations since the late 1940's and throughout the 1950's for having been preoccupied with nuclear weapons and had been mesmerized over an all-out nuclear war against the Soviet Union, in the direction of a major adversary, and had forgotten about "small wars" and "small adversaries, and thus did not have appropriate strategies, tactics, forces, and weapons to cope with that type of small wars and adversaries. Only after Dien Bien Phu did Forster Dulles, the U.S. Secretary of State, run around setting up the SEATO military alliance in Southeast Asia. The U.S. "fire-fighting" forces serving as the backbone of that alliance did not yet have truly effective strength, mainly because they still relied on the U.S. air force and navy.

Taylor's reasoning centered around a main argument: both the U.S. and the Soviet Union had strategic nuclear forces and were capable of carrying out nuclear retaliation, so a nuclear war between the U.S. and the Soviet Union was still in the hypothetical sphere, while "insurgency" wars were taking place one after another in the old colonial countries. Therefore, in actuality the urgent and real immediate task of the U.S. was to fight "counter-insurgency" wars aimed against the world national liberation movement. In order to fulfill that mission the U.S. had to create a new military doctrine that was

appropriate to the world situation at that time. The U.S. had to draft a new military strategy which confirmed the war objectives, the adversaries, the war-waging mode, and appropriate forces and weapons. On the basis of that argument, Taylor insisted on the development of U.S. ground forces and the accelerated manufacturing of the various kinds of ground forces weapons which could be used in both large-scale wars and "small wars," as they were called by the U.S. Taylor placed the U.S. strategic nuclear forces in the role of a "shield" or an "umbrella" which were prepared to take the initiative in a nuclear attack, above all as a "deterrent" while U.S. conventional forces, most of them deployed in foreign countries, played the role of "swords" in attacking the revolutionary, progressive forces of the world, especially the national liberation movement.

In the basis of Taylor's arguments, the Kennedy administration at the beginning of the 1960's came up with a U.S. military strategy called "flexible response." The nucleus of that strategy was "counterinsurgency" war. It included such concepts as "limited war," "special war," "local war," "orderly and accelerated war escalation," etc. The forces to be used in "counterinsurgency" war included the "International Volunteer Service" (IVS), which was in fact made up of spies posing as groups doing social and technical work; "fire brigade" forces made up of a number of U.S. Marine battalions and "green beret" Special Forces operating in the ethnic minority areas in the mountain region; and finally, part of the U.S. "all-purpose forces," i.e. U.S. troops which included all three armed forces branches and used conventional weapons. The "flexible response" strategy was based on the "two and one half wars" doctrine (a major war with the Soviet Union, a major war with China, and half a war against the national liberation movement), so during the first half of the 1960's the Washington ruling circles did not yet foresee that there would come a time when the "half a war" they were waging in Vietnam would force them to send there forces they were reserving for a large war.

From the contents of the "flexible response" strategy there arose the "Dien Bien Phu syndrome." Theory and actual historical practice have demonstrated that when drafting and implementing that strategy the U.S. administration always had a "Dien Bien Phu" complex or a "Dien Bien Phu syndrome."

It may be said that the U.S. strategists of the 1960's, who were regarded as the flowers of U.S. military intelligence which blossomed in U.S. military history, were truly rich in strategic innovation and creativity, but that richness arose from the subjective, one-sided evaluation of the situation and U.S. capabilities, and the war objectives of the U.S., so it became a richness which was both extremely dangerous for the U.S. itself and artificial and hollow. Clearly, Taylor and the colleagues of that imposing U.S. general had only superficially absorbed the lesson of Dien Bien Phu. Thus when the strategy was implemented in Vietnam the dark shadow of the defeat at Dien Bien Phu always haunted the Washington ruling circles and the U.S. military advisers who served with the Saigon puppet regime, then the command of the U.S. expeditionary army in South Vietnam.

With the liberation of half of Vietnam and the established in the north of a socialist regime, "the strength of Vietnam" underwent new development. The Vietnamese revolution had a solid basis of support and a rich source of aid in

the northern rear area. Thus when a new Dien Bien Phu occurred on the southern battlefield it would be a Dien Bien Phu on a much larger scale and would have a much greater repercussions in the world. That was an agonizing inner worry of U.S. strategists in the "special war," and then the "limited war" waged by the U.S. in South Vietnam. For example, when Westmoreland sent U.S. troops to Khe Sanh and the U.S. units there became besieged like Dien Bien Phu, President Johnson admonished General Westmoreland not to allow the occurrence of a "new Dien Bien Phu" on the southern battlefield. Ultimately the U.S. troops had to shamefully retreat from Khe Sanh. In the spring of 1968 the U.S. expeditionary army had to endure a new strategic surprise: the general offensive and simultaneous uprising of the soldiers and people of the south against a large number of municipalities and cities in South Vietnam. That was not a Dien Bien Phu in the mountains and jungles, but in the cities. The glorious 1968 spring victory of the soldiers and people tossed both the U.S. President Johnson and the U.S. "flexible response" strategy into the dustbin of history. Without Dien Bien Phu there could have been no spring 1968 victory. The Dien Bien Phu victory was the premise of the victory of the spring of 1968. The "flexible response" strategy, which was set forth after the death of the "massive retaliation" strategy and inherited its diseases and atmosphere of death, was born in a Dien Bien Phu in the jungles and mountains of Tay Bac and was buried in South Vietnam, in the "Dien Bien Phu in the cities of South Vietnam."

Replacing Johnson as the U.S. President, Nixon continued to lurch along in the tracks of Johnson's overturned cart. Most of the resources of the new administration continued to be poured into Vietnam. The U.S. global military strategy served the Vietnam "focal point" and the Indochina Peninsula. The U.S. "real deterrence" strategy was born and was truly full of surprises for the U.S. strategists. That was the second time the U.S. had to adjust its global military strategy because of a regional defeat. The new strategy arose from the corpse of the strategy it replaced.

The "real deterrence" strategy was built on the foundation of the "one and a half wars" doctrine, i.e. "a major war" against the Soviet Union and "half a war" against the national liberation movement during the historical period of the first part of the 1970's, when an old enemy of the U.S., China, controlled by Mao and the pro-Mao clique in Beijing, was transformed into a new friend. Thanks to those new, favorable conditions Nixon had additional "freedom of action" in the use of strategic weapons in the "half a war," to obey the arguments of the U.S. warmongers and attack the "root of the war" in Vietnam, i.e. attack North Vietnam, the Hanoi-Hai Phong area, by using B52 strategic bombers.

The "Dien Bien Phu imprint" also imprinted itself on the "real deterrence" strategy. In order to avoid a "Dien Bien Phu" in South Vietnam in a form the U.S. strategists could not imagine or foresee, just as they had been completely surprised in the spring of 1968, Nixon brought the war to North Vietnam, this time from the air.

That was truly a calamity for the warmongers in the White House and the Pentagon. During the last days of December 1972 there took place in the skies of the "Hanoi-Hai Phong" area a "Dien Bien Phu in the air" which resounded

around the world. The "deterrence" tools in the U.S. global military strategy in the U.S. nuclear triad, the B52 Superfortresses, were shot down in large numbers in a small area, on a battlefield the U.S. had classified as "half a war." The inevitable result was that even with the collusion, the "coordination in policy and action with Beijing," the "deterrence" strategy could not "deter" the other resolute enemies of the U.S. in the world national liberation movement. The glorious victory of the soldiers and people of Vietnam in the "Dien Bien Phu in the air" determined the fate of the U.S. "real deterrence" strategy and contributed decisively to tossing it into the same hole in which there had been buried the two previous U.S. strategies: "massive retaliation" and "flexible response."

The Paris Agreement of January 1973 opened the way for the great victory of the fall of 1975. How could the "Vietnamization" strategy, a byproduct of the "real deterrence" strategy, which was in its death throes, stop the rising tide of the soldiers and people of Vietnam, in the north and south, who were strongly attacking the Saigon puppet regime? The great victory of the spring of 1975 was the result of Vietnamese military art, of the "combined strength of Vietnam" which the Vietnam Communist Party had built up in the process of 30 years of war and struggle from 1945 to 1975 in order to win complete independence and unity for the Vietnamese homeland.

At the beginning of the 1980's, for the fourth time since the end of World War II the Washington ruling circles changed their military strategy.

Reagan brought forth the "direct confrontation" strategy, which was erected on the "two wars" foundation, i.e. a "major war" against the Soviet union and a "major war" against the national liberation movement. That new strategy was also born from the corpse of the old "real deterrence" strategy and brought along with it the diseases inherited from the old strategies, which had died one after the other. Despite the "assistance" of the Beijing expansionists and hegemonists the U.S., under the Reagan administration, still could not pass through the threshold of the "post Vietnam" period and enter the period following the "post Vietnam" period, as Reagan desired. Reagan's "major war" still could not intimidate the national liberation movement all over the world, from the Middle East, Africa, and Southeast Asia to the "backyard" of the U.S., the Latin American region, especially Central America. While Reagan is preparing to jump into adventurist intervention and aggression in that region, even many people in the U.S. ruling circles and the U.S. Congress have sounded the warning, "remember Vietnam." Thus even in the 1980's the Reagan administration cannot erase the imprint of "Dien Bien Phu" from the present U.S. military strategy. The Dien Bien Phu "syndrome" and "complex" were the inherited diseases which have plagued the U.S. ruling circles throughout the past 30 years and are continuing to plague them.

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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, TRADE AND AID

BRIEFS

LAO, PRK DEFENSE MINISTERS--The defense ministers of Laos and Kampuchea have sent their greetings to the Vietnamese defense minister on the 30th anniversary of the Dien Bien Phu victory. The message from the Lao defense minister said: Dien Bien Phu victory marked the beginning of the end of colonialism in the world. The message affirmed Laos' determination to smash all dark schemes and sabotage activities of the enemy, firmly defend, and successfully build the socialist homeland. The Kampuchean message said: The Kampuchean people and army are grateful forever to the soldiers who fought the Dien Bien Phu battle and now the Vietnamese volunteers who helped Kampuchea overthrow the genocidal Pol Pot regime and assist Kampuchean reconstruction efforts. [Text] [BK090712 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 8 May 84]

KAMPUCHEA VISIT CONCLUDED--Hanoi, VNA, 10 May--The delegation of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee office led by its director, Nguyen Khanh, alternate member of the party Central Committee, has concluded its week-long visit to Kampuchea. During its stay there, the delegation discussed with a host delegation led by Sok Khen, director of the KPRP CC office, measures to promote bilateral cooperation and mutual assistance. The Vietnamese guests were received by Say Phuthang, political bureau member, and secretary of the KPRP CC. They toured the provinces of Kandal and Siem Reap, some economic and cultural establishments and historic relics in Phnom Penh. [Text] [OW100841 Hanoi VNA in English 0712 GMT 10 May 84]

JAPAN AMITY BODY GREETINGS--Hanoi, VNA, 11 May--Tran Danh Thuyen, chairman of the Vietnam-Japan Friendship Association, has sent a message of greetings to the 30th Congress of the Japan-Vietnamese Friendship Association. After expressing the Vietnamese people's deep gratitude to the association and the Japanese people in general for their spiritual and material support to Vietnam, the message said: "The association's activities have actively contributed to promoting the cooperation, friendship and mutual understanding between our two peoples." It continued: "The 30th Congress of the association is of great significance to its activities as well as to the friendly relations between our two peoples. We firmly believe that this congress will usher in a new stage of development in consolidating and strengthening the organization of the association, and in enhancing the support, solidarity, friendship and mutual understanding between our two peoples." [Text] [OW120608 Hanoi VNA in English 1513 GMT 11 May 84]

DEPARTING AMBASSADOR BIDS FAREWELL--Hanoi, VNA, 11 May--French Minister of External Relations Claude Cheysson has expressed his satisfaction at the development of the friendship and cooperation between France and Vietnam. He was speaking at a reception of Vietnamese Ambassador Mai Van Bo who came to bid farewell at the end of his term of office in France. Mai Van Bo thanked the French Government and Minister Claude Cheysson for having created conditions for him to accomplish well his mission in France. He expressed the wish for further development of the friendship and cooperation between France and Vietnam in the interests of the two peoples, and of peace and stability in southeast Asia. [Text] [OW112226 Hanoi VNA in English 1600 GMT 11 May 84]

SOVIET EXPERTS AWARDED ORDERS--Hanoi, VNA, 12 May--The Ministry of Building held in Hanoi Thursday a ceremony to award the labour order of different categories and the friendship order to four Soviet experts for their active contributions to the construction of the Bim Son cement plant. Minister of building Phan Ngoc Tuong and the deputy economic counsellor of the Soviet Embassy, V. V. Ivanovich attended the ceremony. [Text] [OW122004 Hanoi VNA in English 1500 GMT 12 May 84]

WFTU DENUNCIATION OF PRC 'ATTACKS'--Hanoi, VNA, 13 May--The World Federation of Trade Union (WFTU) called for an immediate end to the military attacks by the Chinese armed forces on Vietnam in a statement issued in Prague recently, according to CTK. The WFTU also appealed to workers and trade unions in all countries to intervene and press for a peaceful solution to all disputes, renouncing the use of force and respecting the principles of international law and the UN Charter. "It is to be deeply regretted that the Chinese Government has not yet responded in a positive way to the proposals of Vietnam for a treaty of non-aggression between the two states and to the proposals to conduct serious negotiations to resolve all problems of bilateral relations in a peaceful manner," the statement said. "On the contrary, the Chinese armed forces have launched a series of military attacks across the borders which caused serious civilian casualties and constitute a blatant violation of international law and a grave threat to peace in the region," the statement stressed. [Text] [OW131528 Hanoi VNA in English 1503 GMT 13 May 84]

SRV-MPR AMITY COMMITTEE--Hanoi, VNA, 13 May--The Central Committee of the Vietnam-Mongolia Friendship Association met in Hanoi Saturday to review its work in 1983 and discuss a program of actions for 1984. The meeting chaired by Nguyen Quang Xa, president of the association, passed a program of activities in celebration of the coming national day of the Mongolian People's Republic. Under this program, the association will introduce to the Vietnamese people the achievements recorded by the Mongolian people in their socialist construction, and the initiatives of the MPR for peace and security in Asia and the Pacific. The association has decided to set up its chapters in Ho Chi Minh City and Ha Son Binh Province. The meeting was also attended by representatives of the party Central Committee's international department, and the Foreign Ministry, the Vietnam Federation of Trade Unions, the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union Central Committee, and the Vietnam Women's Union. [Text] [OW131534 Hanoi VNA in English 1513 GMT 13 May 84]

DELEGATION ENDS CSSR VISIT--Hanoi, VNA, 14 May--The delegation of Ho Chi Minh City led by Nguyen Van Linh, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and Secretary of the city party committee, returned to Ho Chi Minh city on 13 May, concluding its visit to Bratislava city of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic. The delegation was welcomed at the airport by Mai Chi Tho, member of the CPV Central Committee and chairman of the city people's committee, and other officials. Jan Golgero, Czechoslovak consul general in Ho Chi Minh city, was present on this occasion. [Text] [OW141656 Hanoi VNA in English 1542 GMT 14 May 84]

GREETINGS FROM RAUL CASTRO--Hanoi, VNA, 15 May--A meeting was held in New York 13 May to mark the 30th anniversary of the Dien Bien Phu victory and the 9th anniversary of the liberation of South Vietnam. The meeting, jointly sponsored by the Committee in Solidarity with Vietnam, Kampuchea and Laos and the Association of Vietnamese residents in the United States, were attended by Ambassador Hoang Bich Son and other officials of the Vietnamese permanent representation at the United Nations. Speaking at the meeting, Merle Katner, representative of the committee reiterated the U.S. progressive people's support for the Vietnamese people's socialist construction and national defence and condemned Beijing's acts of aggression and war escalation against Vietnam over the recent period. Also on this occasion, Vietnamese Defence Minister General Van Tien Dung has received a message of greetings from his Cuban counterpart, Defence Minister Raul Castro. [Text] [OW151800 Hanoi VNA in English 1548 GMT 15 May 84]

COMMUNIST JOURNAL DELEGATION VISITS--Hanoi, VNA, 15 May--Hoang Tung, secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, received here Monday morning a delegation of the review "problems of peace and socialism" led by Xorot Sando, member of its editorial board and representative of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party to the review. Also present at the reception was Nguyen Vinh, member of the Central Committee and representative of the party to the review. While here, the delegation paid a tribute at the Ho Chi Minh mausoleum and visited the late president's home and office. It toured various localities and was briefed on the achievements of the Vietnamese people in socialist construction. [Text] [OW150841 Hanoi VNA in English 0716 GMT 15 May 84]

UNESCO COMMUNICATION ADVISOR VISITS--Hanoi, VNA, 15 May--Sayyid Mohammad 'Ali, UNESCO's communication advisor for Asia and the Pacific, visited Vietnam from 9-14 May at the invitation of the Vietnam National UNESCO Commission. During his stay, S. M. 'Ali had working sessions with the national UNESCO Commission and its communication sub-commission. He visited the office of the Vietnam Journalists' Association, the head office of Vietnam News Agency, the central radio and television and the audio-visual program centre to inquire about the information and communication work in Vietnam as well as the possibilities for seeking assistance to Vietnam [as received] in this field. He paid tribute at the Ho Chi Minh mausoleum and visited the late president's residence and office in Hanoi. Mr 'Ali also visited the Hoa Binh hydroelectric power project on the Da River in Ha Son Binh Province. The UNESCO official was cordially received by Cu Huy Can and Le Phuong, respectively vice-president and secretary-general of the National UNESCO Commission. Dao Tung, member of the Vietnam UNESCO Commission in charge of communication work, exchanged views with S. M. 'Ali on Vietnam's information and press activities and on matters related to UNESCO's

cooperation with and assistance to major mass media foundations in Vietnam. S. M. 'Ali left Hanoi on 14 May for Vientiane where he will discuss cooperation and assistance programs with Lao officials. [Text] [OW151958 Hanoi VNA in English 1520 GMT 15 May 84]

DELEGATION VISITS VLADIVOSTOK--Hanoi, VNA, 16 May--A delegation of Haiphong Port city led by Le Danh Xuong, deputy-secretary of the Haiphong Party Committee, has paid a friendship visit to its sister city of Vladivostok in the USSR. It attended May Day celebrations in Vladivostok and was warmly received by the local party committee and the municipal Soviet. [Text] [OW161531 Hanoi NVA in English 1502 GMT 16 May 84]

IOJ JOURNALISTS GROUP VISITS--Hanoi, VNA, 16 May--A delegation of the International Organization of Journalists (IOJ) led by J. Belicks (Czechoslovakia), recently paid a visit to Vietnam on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Dien Bien Phu victory. The delegation included Amil Carleback (FRG), Andre Baudin and Claude Candille (France), Ari Heinonen (Finland) and M. Freire (Peru). The delegation was warmly received by vice-chairman of the council of ministers Vo Nguyen Giap who answered their interviews. Together with a delegation of the Czechoslovak Journalists' Association it was also received by Hoang Tung, party CC secretary and chairman of the Vietnam Journalists' Association. The delegation visited several economic, cultural and social establishments in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh city and Haiphong and met with broad strata of the population, leading officials and press circles in these cities. [Text] [OW161545 Hanoi VNA in English 1454 GMT 16 May 84]

CSO: 4200/756

ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE AND FINANCE

EDITORIAL URGES GREATER SUPPLY, BETTER USE OF MATERIALS

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 4 Apr 84 pp 1, 4

[Editorial: "Extending Exploitation of All Sources of Materials in the Country"]

[Text] Materials are a material factor that determines the development of production. In recent years, thanks to a number of new policies, many sectors, localities and basic units were able for the first time to obtain quite good results from exploiting all sources of materials in the country by taking measures to step up production; applying technical progress to properly exploiting sources of discarded and waste materials; restoring, replacing and putting to use the materials that had been left unused or had not yet been shipped to users because of delays; and organizing joint enterprises and economic integration among the areas and units that had raw materials, industrial equipment, technical labor, etc. As a result, in 1983 the materials sector was able to fulfill 96-104 percent of the goals that had been set for purchasing chemical goods, automobile and tractor and generator parts, automobile tires, batteries, ball bearings, electromagnetic wires, electrical materials, power tools, etc. The Region 5 Materials Supply Federation alone overfulfilled by 50 percent the goal set for purchasing materials in 6 provinces in Central Vietnam. In the case of light-weight powder, which was commonly used by the rubber-processing industry and in previous years had been imported from foreign countries, the Region 1 Materials Supply Federation in 1983 was able to buy 1,500 tons of it from domestic producers, which were relatively enough to ensure satisfying the need for it as its plan dictated. The center (in Hanoi) in charge of dealing in materials affected by delayed shipment organized the selection, improvement and restoration of a rather large number of old machines and equipment valued at millions of dong, thus serving in time a number of economic sectors in order to step up production and construction.

Although the above-mentioned results are far from proportional to our potential capabilities in terms of raw materials, technical labor and equipment,

they have opened up a correct approach and have added to the common sources of materials a number of important goods, thus replacing in time and gradually reducing our dependence on materials bought from foreign countries, hence, our passiveness in terms of structure, types and time of delivery of materials. Presently, as the economy is moving forward in a positive manner, it requires more and more materials for production and construction. To extend exploitation, to create materials for production and from there on to have greater sources of materials is something of decisive significance. Consequently, what we need first to pay attention to as we try to create more sources of materials is to tightly coordinate the two sectors, import and domestic production; on that basis, to have plans for organization of production, division of work and purchases in a rational manner; and to avoid the situation that has existed for a while, namely, to import some materials and then to learn after their delivery that the same goods have been produced domestically, a situation that creates more goods that remain unsold, waste and restrictions to development of production at the basic level. To fail to have control over producing capacity and distribution in each region means to be unable to do good planning in connection with sources of goods.

To have control again over the materials-producing capacity of different sectors and localities in order to have plans for supplying in time and enough materials for the production need, for the purpose of increasing the sources of domestic materials, particularly raw materials coming from agriculture, forestry and fishery, from existing resources in order to satisfy the production need, must be a permanent job of all sectors and echelons, mostly the materials sector. At the same time, as we try to create more sources of materials, in addition to quantities, structure and types, what is necessary and very important is to pay attention to quality. To do so, we need to have rational division of work and purchases based on investigation of the materials-producing capacity of different regions and to avoid missing any localities or duplication of purchases in any particular localities. Ensure timely and sufficient supply of materials to production installations that make important products on the basis of plan needs and major tasks. Organize well and effectively and include in our plans the economic integration of sectors and localities in order to step up production, ordering of goods, processing and creation of additional sources of materials necessary for satisfying the production need. Have positive projects and plans for division of work to show who do the work, to what extent is the work done and what goods are to be made. At the beginning our goods may be of poor quality, expensive and few, but if we boldly carry on the work and try to apply progressive techniques and to strengthen management, gradually we will make large quantities of good and inexpensive goods. The sectors concerned must take initiative and join with one another in resolving in time any difficulties and problems having to do with procedures and policies, prices applicable to purchases and ordering of goods and create favorable conditions for production units to fulfill the goal of delivering products to the state.

As to the materials that remain unsold, accurately determine their quantities and types so as to have a basis for drawing up plans for using and moving them. Make early improvement and strong changes in terms of having control over inventories, needs and making of materials invoices; clearly determine the responsibilities of each and every unit and individual in order to gradually decrease the chance of more materials remaining unsold or becoming private properties of some individuals or units.

As to purchasing discarded materials and waste products and recycling old materials, organize the forces in charge and rational division of work and boldly use economic levers under the conditions that are permissible in compliance with state procedures and policies in order to promote the highest degree of exploitation and mobilization of materials used in production. At the same time, these types of materials must be included in our plans, particularly for supply to handicrafts and small industry for production of consumer goods. Firmly put an end to the situation in which discarded materials and waste products are used as exchange items or sold to the private sector for profit while the production installations that need them do not have them to use as raw materials. To properly use this source in accordance with projects and plans will directly create an important volume of materials. Only in the case of lubrication oil that is discarded, if we can organize its being retrieved and properly recycled, every year we can satisfy one-fifth of our plan need.

To extend exploitation and to put to timely and effective use all sources of domestic materials for the benefit of production and construction is not only an urgent need but also an important part of economic management.

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CSO: 4209/265

ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE AND FINANCE

ECONOMY OF DONG THAP MUOI, NORTHERN LONG AN DEVELOPED

Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 22 Mar 84 p 3

[Article by Nguyen Phuong: "Long An Starts Moving Toward Dong Thap Muoi and Developing Economy in Northern Districts"]

[Text] As a bridgehead province of the Mekong River delta and being contiguous to Ho Chi Minh City, Long An forms a long and narrow stretch of land which lies across the middle of Nam Bo, which shares 140 kms of frontier with Kampuchea and which has a strip of seashore in the southeast. During the anti-U.S. war of resistance, Long An was an animated battlefield in the vicinity of Saigon as well as the theater of a rather tense strength contest between us and the enemy. Though Long An's position is strategically important from both the points of view of economy and national defense, the population distribution among its different regions is seriously disproportionate. The actual situation in this province is characterized by the fact that its population density is very low, only 53 people per square kilometer, in the northern districts but jumps to 535 people per square kilometer in the eastern and southern districts--that is, a 10-fold increase over the northern ones.

An abundant agricultural labor force and a vast and fertile delta situated at the gateway to Saigon constitute the principal potential and special strength of Long An but at many places this labor force has been used to perform only 100 working days a year. Though the whole province has about 390,000 hectares fully suitable for agricultural and forestry purposes, nearly half this area (roughly 190,000 hectares), especially in the Dong Thap Muoi region and the northern border districts of the province, has not yet been used. If not resolved, this serious disproportion between labor and land will nullify or greatly limit the strength and growth of Long An's economy and will hamper to a large extent the task of building an all-people's national defense and forming a people's war position on a provincial scale.

After carefully analyzing the realities of this situation, the congress of party organizations at all levels in Long An has passed a resolution on the need to implement at all costs a plan to redistribute the population among all regions in the province in order to meet the requirements of economy and national defense. To achieve this goal, it is necessary to launch a resolute and continuous offensive to open new lands and conquer the Dong Thap Muoi region at all costs and to develop economy in the northern districts. The reclamation and conquest of Dong Thap Muoi--a region which is vast and full of potentialities but lacks fresh water and is swampy and thickly covered with wild vegetation and where the weather conditions are harsh--will not be easy at all; rather, it will be a great undertaking during which numerous difficulties and hardships will have to be overcome and which will involve heavy expenditures and a long period of time. Consequently, many questions have been raised for discussion: Is it advisable to work urgently or slowly and on a large or small scale? Is it better to wait for and secure substantial budget appropriations and other forces from the central level or to highly develop the local self-sufficient spirit and capability and closely coordinate it with the central level's support and assistance? The unanimous answer of the entire Long An Party Organization is that it is necessary to mobilize and organize forces immediately according to a uniform project and plan consistent with the realities of the task of reclaiming and conquering Dong Thap Muoi, to closely combine this task with economic development to gradually achieve a practical effect in the northern districts and to tightly coordinate the local effort, dynamism and creativeness with the best use of the valuable manifold assistance and support of the central level and with the essential cooperation of the sister localities.

Over the past few years, Long An's advance toward Dong Thap Muoi has been made according to the guidelines indicated in that project, with efforts being focused on two directions of attack: Opening of communication roads and construction of water conservancy works, and coordination of these tasks with the gradual expansion area and multi cropping method, with the creation of new population centers and with the gradual increase in population density in the northern districts.

On the communication front, Long An has redesigned the road network to better promote economic construction and simultaneously to ensure great mobility for the armed forces in case of war. Digging and filling has been done to build 300 kms of new roads in Long An. It must be noted that the whole province has concentrated efforts on opening the 120-km long Route 49 linking Tan An City through Tan Thanh and Moc Hoa to Vinh Hung, thus creating conditions to deploy the labor force to develop economic zones in the northern districts and to facilitate traveling and goods circulation among various regions.

Closely coordinating the water conservancy front with the opening of communication roads, Long An has satisfactorily carried out many projects in the direction of the northern districts in order to create conditions for the reclamation and development of Dong Thap Muoi, taking into consideration the need to promote combat activities and to shape up a defense line for the province. In 1983 alone, the province completed 14 works involving a digging and filling volume of 884,830 cubic meters of earth and creating conditions to expand the two-crop cultivation area by 15,000 hectares. In the Dong Thap Muoi region in particular, there were in 1978 only [1,600] hectares of one-crop fields with an unstable productivity; at present, there are 5,000 hectares of two-crop fields with a per hectare output of 6 tons and even 8 tons in some localities. From 80 hectares in 1980, the kenaf growing area has now been increased to 3,000 hectares and has brought a highly valuable source of economic benefit to the province. It was in 1983 that for the first time Long An's agricultural production reached 500,000 tons of grain representing an increase of [100,650] tons over 1982 and an average per capita grain output of 501 kgs.

A question has been put: How has Long An managed to mobilize a large number of laborers to launch a vigorous offensive into the Dong Thap Muoi region and develop the northern districts' economy?

In the past, Long An recruited a fairly large number of workers to carry out communication and water conservancy works for the province but very heavy expenditures were incurred in the use of this force which could only slowly build certain small-sized projects. Though still using this force in this manner on a small scale, the province has now widely applied the method of mobilizing citizens to fulfill their socialist labor obligation, organizing them tightly, employing the militia and self-defense forces as activists and implementing a rational policy. Long An has properly organized the people's study of the labor obligation system, managed the labor force ever more cleverly and carried out the task of mobilizing people for the labor obligation in an equitable, rational and highly effective manner. Anyone who has a good health, who has been accustomed to performing labor and who has rendered a good service in various projects has been slated for direct participation in labor performance. This force has been organized systematically into units, subjected to discipline according to clear-out regulations and carefully led by technical cadres in the observance of technical regulations; in addition, its livelihood is ensured. Persons who have not the conditions to directly perform labor or whose labor performance in various projects has proven ineffective (and who are mostly traders or handicraftsmen with a fairly high income) have been requested to fulfill their labor obligation indirectly by contributing a sum of money equivalent to the value of the working days

required of them. This money has been used to provide adequate meals and beverages and essential living conditions for the force directly engaged in labor performance in order to enable it to achieve a high productivity while sparing the province the trouble of making budget appropriations for this purpose. People have agreed that this method of fulfilling the socialist labor obligation is suitable for all strata.

It was precisely due to this appropriate organizational method that Long An was able in 1983 to mobilize 150,000 people for 2.5 million man-days of direct socialist labor and to collect 16 million dong of contributions by people with the indirect socialist labor obligation in order to accelerate the building of communication and water conservancy projects of the province in its advance into Dong Thap Muoi.

While organizing the fulfillment of the short-term labor obligation in such a way, Long An has boldly adopted the form of mobilizing people for the long-term labor obligation by strictly implementing the law on military draft and by carrying out the plan for youths' induction. Long An has continuously ranked first among all the Military Region 7 provinces in obtaining the required number of young recruits. However, these recruits represent only a fixed percentage of the total number of youths falling into the draft age brackets defined by the law. Because of the limitations of the norms on mobilization for regular, mobile and combat-ready units of the army and also for specific reasons about health and political standards, a fairly large number of youths of the draft age have remained in the localities. A proposal has been made by Long An and approved by the higher level: It consists of calling up these youths to join the army to fulfill their obligation in various localities by reclaiming and conquering the Dong Thap Muoi region while undergoing the essential military training under a suitable organizational form which is the setting up economic construction groups called Dong Thap 1, Dong Thap 2 and so forth, each with a numerical strength ranging between 1,500 and 2,000.

From the organizational point of view, provincial military organs assume the task of setting up these groups whose leading cadres are chosen from among commissioned and noncommissioned officers found in excess on completion of training and refresher courses or from among those who are demobilized and transferred to other sectors or who leave the army every year; other sectors in the province assign economic management cadres and technical personnel to strengthen the essential sections and jobs. In these units, strict discipline is kept just like in military organs; for 3 years in a row, combatants are trained to execute all tasks according to the military obligation and each year they must undergo military training for 2 months and perform economic construction in the remaining 10.

These units really assume difficult economic tasks according to the provincial plan, are directly subordinate to the Provincial People's Committee and receive overall assistance from various services and sectors in the province so as to be able to carry out their economic activities. The livelihood of these units and the equipment and working tools necessary to them at the initial stage are supplied by the provincial budget; afterward, when they have performed production and conducted business in full accordance with the economic accounting system and when they have established their own current accounts, they will strike a balance of income and expenditures by themselves and will make a contribution to the state budget.

The economic construction units called Dong Thap 1 and Dong Thap 2 have been assigned the task of deeply penetrating the Dong Thap Muoi region and acting as spearheads and hard-core forces in conjunction with provincial and district economic sectors on the spot to carry out the plan to reclaim and conquer Dong Thap Muoi, to develop the economy and to strengthen security and national defense in the northern border districts. In 1983, together with the socialist labor forces, these economic construction units concentrated on satisfactorily completing the building of many communication and water conservancy works in combination with the improvement of ricefields, thus creating direct conditions to shift 4,500 hectares of land in Tan Thanh and 5,000 hectares of land in Moc Hoa from one- to two-crop production and simultaneously and adequately to irrigate and drain 7,000 hectares of peanuts in Duc Hoa District. During the construction of the Lang Ven-ba Sa water conservancy work, the forces of the Dong Thap 1 and Dong Thap 2 economic units played a decisive role. They also acted as mobile regular forces of the province to carry out urgent short-term production tasks, thus resolving the human labor shortage during urgent cultivation seasons in some key production zones. At present, both economic construction groups--Dong Thap 1 and Dong Thap 2--have been carrying out activities on the right track and effectively implementing the economic accounting system and have begun to make a profit. The appearance of these economic units together with the gradual shaping of households clusters and their alliance with the existing state farms have resulted in the emergence of new population centers in the Dong Thap Muoi region and has created an impetus for their expansion and transformation into new hamlets and villages essential to economic development and national defense in this strategically important area. The creation and activities of the Dong Thap 1 and 2 economic construction groups involving the combination of military and labor obligations are thus a new undertaking of an experimental nature. Nevertheless, Long An has obtained an initial and fairly good result. The People's Committee and the various sectors and services in the province

together with the military command are reviewing the situation, drawing experiences, overcoming shortcomings in certain aspects and clearly drawing experiences, overcoming shortcomings in certain aspects and clearly defining the relevant regulations and relationships prior to setting up other Dong Thap groups.

With its great and strong combined forces, the whole province of Long An is stepping up the reclamation and conquest of Dong Thap Muoi, developing economy on a large scale in the northern districts and obtaining an ever higher effect.

9332

CSO: 4209/257

HEAVY INDUSTRY AND CONSTRUCTION

EXPLOITATION OF PYRITE MINE UNDER WAY

Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 21 Mar 84 p 3

[Article by Nguyen Huu Tuan: "Giap Lai Pyrite Ore"]

[Text] Looking like the hollow of a frying pan, the Giap Lai valley has an area of 22 sq. kms and lies on the midland part of Vinh Phu Province.

More than 20 years ago, Giap Lai was merely a desolate land where the babbling of running spring water was heard day and night, mixed with the rustling palm leaves in the forest. After 2 years of urgent work based on the innerearth survey documents compiled by geophysical engineers, Geologic Group 303 has carried out explorations and completed the computation of the reserve deposit in the Giap Lai pyrite mining area. This will be the first pyrite mine ever exploited in our country. Though not on a very large scale, the mine will play an important role in supplying raw materials to various industrial sectors. Scientists throughout the world have determined that a source of pyrite ore is indispensable to the economic development of any country. This compounding sulfuric acid--one of the primarily important substance used to produce chemical fertilizers of various kinds.

Sulfur can also be used as a micronutrient on lands cultivated with special tropical crops. Today people also extract sulfur from pyrite ore and use it to produce rubber goods such as bicycle and automobile tires and inner tubes and synthetic rubber items as well as dyes, glassware, imitation leather, acid-resistant cement, mastic glues, special plating substances, matches, viscous fiber, etc.

It is precisely because pyrite is a raw material of such extensive use value in the industrial field and in daily life that the exploitation of the Giap Lai pyrite mine had been planned as soon as possible. More than 300 cadres and workers of the chemical

sector have come to Giap Lai to build and expand the ore mining site. Sweeping vehicles, leveling machines and power shovels have been operating day and night. Combining manual work with mechanization, the work site has peeled off hundreds of thousands of cubic meters of earth and rock.

Though formerly delineated on the mineral map with an ore-filled area of less than 1 sq. km, the Giap Lai pyrite zone has now been extended to an area of 22 sq. kms where an additional ore deposit has been found lying deep in the earth.

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TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES MOBILIZED TO TRANSPORT RICE

Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 2 Apr 84 p 1

[VNA News Release: "Communications-Transportation Sector Concentrates All Transportation Capabilities to Transport Rice Directly to Consumption Points"]

[Text] By the end of March the transportation forces of the central echelon and Hanoi had completed the plan to transport 28,000 tons of March grain to Hanoi and ensure the supplying of the rationed amounts to the cadres and people of Hanoi.

However, during the recent period many difficulties and deficiencies have been encountered in the selling of rice on a rationed basis to the cadres and people of Hanoi. The selling of rice has proceeded slowly and in many places the families could buy only 50 percent of their monthly rations, which has affected the people's living conditions. The speculators, blackmarketers, and bad people have taken advantage of that situation to control the price of rice on the market and spread rumors to create an unwholesome psychology.

In order to overcome that situation the situation the communications-transportation sector has coordinated with and assisted the grain sector in implementing a plan to directly transport a large quantity of rice from the port to the grain stores and the consumers, at the request of the grain sector, in order to ensure sufficient rice to sell in the monthly rationed amounts to the cadres and people.

The two sectors selected cadres to be responsible for setting up a command committee to coordinate and directly resolve the problems in supply and transportation. The transportation sector guided the transportation units in fulfilling as well as possible the plans and requirements of the grain sector in transporting rice to the consumption points, as requested.

The communications-transportation sector concentrated more than 200 trucks to transport rice from the port of Hai Phong to Hanoi, and gave priority in the use of stevedoring forces to supplying rice to Hanoi. The river transportation sector undertook the transportation of a large volume and continually ensured the plan of delivering 1,000 tons of rice to the Hanoi port for the grain sector.

During the last days of March the rate at which rice was transported to Hanoi was always 1,200 to 1,500 tons a day, and the rate will be even greater in future months.

HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE

BRIEFS

FAMILY PLANNING PROMOTED--Hanoi, VNA, 14 May--Great efforts have been made by the southern provinces to lower the population growth rate which is still high in many regions. A family planning department has been set up at every obstetric hospital and maternity house. Lam Dong Province on the central highlands is striving to reduce its present birth rate of 2.6 percent to 2 per cent in 1985. The provincial health service in collaboration with the Women's Union and the Trade Union is pushing a family planning campaign in many rural areas and among women workers. Since the beginning of this year tens of thousands of people in Dong Thap Province have seen films and attended talks on birth control. Last year, the number of people using contraceptives was double that in 1982. Contraceptives devices are supplied free to the population. The Mekong Delta Province of Hau Giang recently trained more than 100 cadres on family planning. In 1983, the population growth rate dropped by 0.14 percentage point compared with 1982, bringing the birth rate down to 2.5 per cent. Some wards and villages have brought the birth rate from 2.5 down to 1.8 per cent. With assistance from the United Nations Fund for Population Activity (U.N.F.P.A.), many courses on family planning have been opened for some 1,200 medical workers in Song Be and Hau Giang Provinces. [Text] [OW141205 Hanoi VNA in English 0702 GMT 14 May 84]

CSO: 4200/756

BIEN HOA CATHOLICS CONTRIBUTE TO CONSTRUCTION, DEFENSE

Hanoi CHINH NGHIA in Vietnamese No 9-10, 25 Mar 84 p 7

[Article by Duc Viet: "Construction and Defense"]

[Text] In the past years, keeping pace with the upward trend of the new life, the Catholics in Bien Hoa Municipality were working closely with the administration and people to overcome difficulties, to strive to work hard in production and to bring about initial results in the socialist transformation and construction undertaken by the municipality.

The Catholics, who mostly are northerners being lured and forced by the enemy to go to the South in 1954, now number more than 90,000, account for 40 percent of the municipality's population and are divided into 40 parishes, with 53 pastors and 450 priests, and concentrated in Ho Nai I, Ho Nai II, Tam Hoa, Tam Hiep, Tan Mai, Tan Tien and other subwards. During the rule of the U.S. -puppets, since they had not correctly understood the revolution and had been under the daily and hourly influence of the enemy machinery of distortion and deceit, they had been vacillating considerably.

In addition to organizing the learning and understanding of the party and state religious-policy resolutions for pastors, priests and Catholics and encouraging them to take part in activities that would benefit the country and the people, the Municipal CPV Committee, People's Committee and Fatherland Front Committee also created favorable conditions for them and helped them to properly put into practice the freedom of religion, such as suggesting to the authorities at all levels assistance in repairing the damaged churches and parish buildings necessary for the masses. Every year at Christmas time, in addition to sending greetings to members of the Catholic parishes, the administration and front at all levels also sent delegations to pay visits and to bring gifts to pastors and Catholics and representatives or provided guidance to the parishes for better organization of religious holidays. Through the movement, the representative Catholics and pastors and priests who had scored many achievements were also recommended for running as candidates for election

to the Municipal People's Council, as in the case of Pastor Tran Xuan Thao, or to the Fatherland Front Committee as in the case of Pastor Nguyen Huu Hoa. Many other priests and Catholics were also assigned important positions in mass organizations and production units.

The Catholics in the municipality became more and more confident in the new system. The fear of being "controlled by the revolution" which the enemy had created through his arguments was gradually chased from their thinking. Pastor Tran Xuan Thao said, "we feel extremely joyous and are gradually chasing away any complexes and the darkness of the past in order to think correctly, to act correctly and to actively contribute in a small way to the construction and defense of our beloved municipality." The correct thinking of the Hanoi parish pastor was also the thinking of other Catholics in general, who only recently still thought that they "cannot coexist with the communists."

The realities in recent years proved that the Catholics in the municipality were showing their "love for the country and respect for Christ," rallying around the party organizations and administrations at all levels, heightening their vigilance and striving to thwart any plots to divide Catholics from non-Catholics and Catholics from the revolution. They properly implemented the state policies and laws, urged their children to fulfill their military obligation and took part in the militia force, people's security teams, and so on. They took part in the movement to work collectively, to transform industry and commerce, to build small industrial and handicraft groups and cooperatives, and so on. Their most outstanding achievement in 1983 was the fact that they assisted the municipality in brilliantly fulfilling the draft of young people into the army and, as in many previous years, contributed to building the municipality's small industry and handicrafts to become the bearer of the provincial leading banner. A number of production installations making woven articles for export of Catholics in Tan Mai, Tan Tien, Tam Hiep and Tam Hoa Subwards was awarded by the State Council and Council of Ministers the Labor Order Second Class and many letters of commendation.

However, in the rapids that flow downstream there always are currents that flow in the opposite direction. While the recent achievements of the Catholics in the municipality have been so respectable, there still are some people who have so far failed to recognize that their life must be closely linked with the new life and go hand in hand with the upward movement of the nation and society. But we believe that in the light of the resolution of the 5th Party Congress and the resolution of the "National Congress of Vietnamese Catholics Building and Defending the Fatherland and Defending Peace," on the basis of the noble interests of the revolutionary undertaking and the role and responsibilities of each and every citizen today, the Catholics in the municipality will continue to develop the patriotic tradition, to rally around the party organization and administration and to strive to build Bien Hoa as a deserving political, economic and cultural center of the province.

CATHOLIC NUNS PRODUCE GOODS WHILE ADJUSTING TO NEW LIFE

Hanoi CHINH NGHIA in Vietnamese No 9-10, 25 Mar 84 p 16

[Article by Ha Thu Hung: "New Life Seen From Convents"]

[Text] A small part in the memories I have about the narrow land of the central part of the country in the early postliberation years was about the nuns in convents. In those days, wherever I went, I saw bright smiling faces; the happiness of liberation spread into every house, every alley and hamlet and to all roads from cities to rural areas. As to the convents that I had an opportunity to pass by, the gates were all closed. Sometimes I met a nun on the street, who was recognized only by her religious clothes, she would quickly pass in front of me, her face being silent and soon disappearing behind the convent gate. A cadre, who was in charge of the Fatherland Front work in Da Nang Municipality, told me that because of the characteristics of that religious community, the nuns from convents normally had very little relationship with the outside world. In the past, the nuns had cared about only the religious matters and to some extent such charity work as teaching, raising orphans and invalids, treating diseases, and so on. The liberation of the South for them was a change that was too great. In addition to the common worries of those people who had lived under the old regime, these women had the complex of religious people who did not know how the revolutionary administration would treat them and how they would be living under the new regime.

Now as I returned to this narrow land of Central Vietnam, one of the profound changes I noticed was the nuns from the convents and their images. The same cadre of that old day said to me: "As you see, the new life has spread to the convents. The same nuns who have lived in seclusion and now turn to the new life are so devoted to the nation and the native land."

The same images I encountered in any convents I had a chance to come to visit.

In Da Nang, I had an opportunity to visit the Sao Bien convent. The doors of its buildings, which overlook the ocean amidst the waves and pines, were kept open everyday to make it convenient for customers to come back and forth to deal with the "Sao Bien work cooperation team making rattan top pieces for export," whose members were mostly nuns and were led by one named Thuyet Hoa. Visitors in the convent found an atmosphere of a production installation: here some nuns were weaving rattan top pieces, there other nuns were making cotton-filled blankets and still others were tending the gardens where there were many precious flowers. While Mother Superior Phuong Khanh and a nun, Ngoc Minh, (the accountant of the production team) were showing me the place, they told me that as the convent started productive work after the liberation in 1975, it encountered quite a great deal of difficulties. At the beginning, the nuns had received orders from the Thanh Tam export team (of the St Paul Order) to make vertical bamboo blinds for export, but they earned very little money as they had encountered many difficulties, particularly in transportation. But in 1977, with assistance from the administration and Fatherland Front, the convent set up the "work cooperation team making rattan top pieces for export," which was specialized in making rattan top pieces for the foreign trade sector, and accepted to make some other goods; as a result, business was growing and the income of team members rose considerably. The team had 101 members, including more than 60 nuns. Starting as a production installation that made only 1,000 square meters of rattan top pieces per year, the team has by now boosted production to from 8,000 to 10,000 square meters, with the income of its members rising to about 300 dong per month. Mother Superior Ton Nu Phuong Khanh said, "As we go into productive work, for religious people like us this is not solely a matter of taking care of our living conditions, which are important, of course, but in our team here this is also a way to express our desire to adjust ourselves to the common life around us."

I agreed to the thinking of Phuong Khanh. This desire first of all was reflected in the way those women remained in the country, in their native land, in order to readily share all of the gains and difficulties with their compatriots and to practice their religion right in their native land and their country. The choice that was involved here meant a desire to undergo changes, for everybody knew that living under the new regime would require having different feelings, thoughts and acts. From being lost and confused at the beginning, gradually as time went by they developed patriotic and progressive sentiments. We clearly realized that fact as we visited the social welfare organizations that had been run by the nuns' Order and were now under the management of the Ministry of War Invalids and Social Welfare. Most of the nuns who had been working there still remained and were doing the same work. With organization, management and supply provided by the state, the living conditions of organization members and the care and teaching given were ensured better and showed more gains than before. Since the nuns enjoyed the confidence and respect of their colleagues, who were state cadres and civil servants, and since their religion and

the rules of their Order were respected, the nuns felt completely reassured as they carried on their work and the personal duties of religious people. In those places, with the same black and blue outer garments and the same faces that quietly appeared here and there, the work they were doing really had another meaning now.

Accounting for a greater percentage were the nuns who took part in making consumer goods for domestic consumption or for export in order to support themselves and to contribute to society, as in the case of the ones in Sao Bien convent.

The most outstanding production team was the Thanh Tam team making vertical bamboo blinds for export, in Thanh Tam convent (right in the center of the Municipality of Da Nang) headed by Mother Superior Nguyen Kim Nguyet. I learned from a number of cadres in charge of the small industry and handicrafts and foreign trade sectors that Thanh Tam was one of the first work co-operation teams established in Central Vietnam and that it had quickly and steadily developed to become a "famous" production installation making goods for export. Famous because the blinds made by Thanh Tam convent were of good quality, colors and designs which made them very popular among foreign customers. Famous because the team had a good management board that appreciated people and knew what it was doing and because its labor was organized in an orderly and strict manner and particularly the nuns were applying a lot of scientific and technical knowledge to production to increase labor productivity and team members' income.

In 1983, the team produced a quantity of goods valued at 2.227 million dong, or 14 times the value in the first year (in 1976 the value of its goods was more than 16,000 dong). But more remarkable was the fact that to engage early in productive work not only resolved the difficulties in the daily life of 60 nuns in the convent and hundreds of other laborers but also proved the sentiments of those nuns who wanted to practice their religion right in the midst of the people, as Mother Superior Dr Nguyen Kim Nguyet said, "Let us cling to this land, cling to this life to live."

I encountered the same way of thinking, the same approach to life among the nuns in other convents in Phu Khanh and Binh Tri Thien. In Nha Trang Municipality, I visited the rattan and bamboo weaving cooperative and was told that many nuns had taken part in its building and were its outstanding technicians. From their convent, some of the nuns like Quynh Long, Quynh Lien, Hoang Vu, etc. had permission from the mother superior to learn making woven articles with rattan, bamboo and leaves at the Tan Lap (Tan Lap Subward) cooperative; later they became active guides for the cooperative, which consisted of nearly 1,000 laborers (most of them were Catholics), and thus helping to resolve the unemployment problem in the locality.

As I visited with the nuns in Khiet Tam convent (in Vinh Trung Village, Nha Trang Municipality), again I found that they were engaged in agricultural production: growing rice, planting grapevines and raising animals. The mother superior here said that as they were doing productive work early, the nuns were able to quickly stabilize their living conditions, to support themselves and at the same time to make contributions to society while being in a position to feel reassured in the worship of Christ.

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